

A classic oil painting portrait of William Shakespeare, showing him from the chest up. He has dark hair, a high forehead, and a light beard. He is wearing a white lace ruff collar. The background is dark and indistinct.

## Today in History

*April 23, 1564*

▲ **William Shakespeare, the greatest playwright in the English language, is traditionally believed to have been born. He died on this day in 1616**

**1014:** High King of Ireland Brian Boru was killed while repelling Viking invaders at the Battle of Clontarf

**1516:** A regulation in Bavaria ruled that beer should be brewed with only water, malt and hops

**1935:** Joseph Stalin opened the Moscow Metro, now the world's fifth most heavily used rapid transport system after Tokyo, Beijing, Seoul and Shanghai

**1985:** Coca-Cola tried out a sweeter formula but it proved unpopular