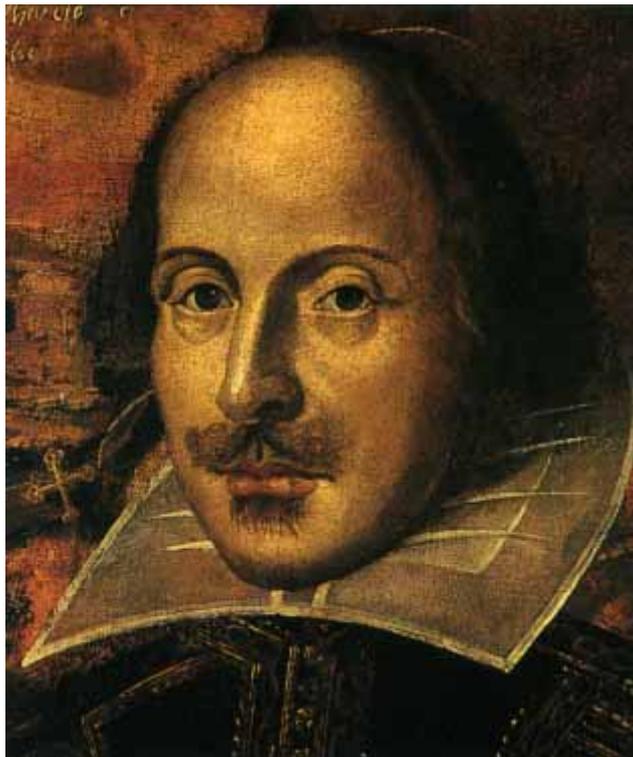


**ARE YOU BRAVE ENOUGH TO TURN BACK TIME AND
WRITE AN ELIZABETHAN STORY IMITATING
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE?**

IES Cervantes calls for 1st Bachillerato Advanced English students to participate in the 1st Elizabethan Story Literary Contest as a tribute to the Immortal Bard on the 400th anniversary of his death.



William Shakespeare and **Queen Elizabeth I** are definitely indivisible. With his timeless, universal stories the playwright not only made Lizzie Tudor's England a marvel but also Greece, Italy, and Denmark. That magnificent oddity which constitutes the British nation is still concerned with revenge, ambition, fun, love, hatred and hunger for power. Since Elizabeth gave permission to **Sir Walter Raleigh** to establish colonies in 1580, Americans have grappled with the cornucopia of constitutional issues introduced in the Henriad or *Hamlet*. No matter where Shakespeare sets his stories, they attract people of all ages and nationalities.

Theatres hosted great companies of players. **Richard Burbage** and **Edward Alleyn** were versatile actors who sparked the interest of the audience in the playhouse. They made Shakespeare's characters look like real people who drank beer or brushed their hair. Their speeches mix English and Scottish aristocrats, ancient Romans, Greek thinkers, Danish princes, tyrant kings, passionate lovers, ungrateful daughters, and sweet Chianti wine at the same time. **Language** itself is often impatient in Shakespeare—who would often invent a word of his own rather than wait for the right one to come.

We would like **Central Madrid 1st Bachillerato Advanced English** students to become Will Shakespeare for an hour and invent a **two-page-prose-Elizabethan** story which contains **political, social, and historical references** appropriate to the period. The story can take place in **England, Scotland, the European nations of the time or the American colonies**. It must be written in **present-day English** and can contain dialogues. It must be written in **blue ink** and be clearly presented. We will provide students with a **template**. **Dictionaries or any additional material are not allowed**. The text must follow the **MLA style guide**. **All texts must be anonymous**. **Students must write the title of the story in the template**. The competition will take place in **Aula Magna at IES Cervantes on March 31 2016, 11:30 a.m.**

Teachers must select **five students** from every school and **fill in the application form** attached to this email. The application must include **personal data**. **The title of the story must be clearly indicated in the application**. Titles cannot be modified. **Due date: January 21 2016**. Please, submit to mariateresa65@hotmail.com.

Texts will be anonymously evaluated by Cervantes teaching staff who will consider their fluency, use of English and literary and historical knowledge. Winners will be informed in mid-April. Cervantes will award the winners with four prizes and an honorific mention. All participants will receive a certificate. **The awards ceremony will take place in Salón de Actos at IES Cervantes on April 22 2016, 11:30 a.m.**

Good luck!

Teresa González Mínguez, Rosa Barrio Gutiérrez, Julianne Athon and Araz Nerdjivanian (English Department IES Cervantes)

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