

UNIT : 6**ELIZABETHAN AGE MAJOR WRITERS AND
LITERARY WORKS****STRUCTURE****6.0 Objectives****6.1 Major Elizabethan Age Writers and Their Literary Works****6.1.1 George Gascoigne****6.1.2 Thomas Sackville****6.1.3 Sir Philip Sidney****6.1.4 Edmund Spenser****6.1.5 William Shakespeare****6.1.6 University Wits****6.1.7 Samuel Daniel****6.2 Let Us Sum up****6.3 Key Words****6.4 Suggested Reading****6.5 Reference/Websites****Answers**

6.0 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this unit are to:

- Study the biographical sketches of the famous literary figures of Elizabethan age.
- Study the famous literary works of the writers of Elizabethan age that have marked the literary scene.
- Examine how the Elizabethan writers have contributed to English literature through their literary works.
- Look into the major literary works written during the Elizabethan age.

**6.1 MAJOR ELIZABETHAN AGE WRITERS AND
LITERARY WORKS**

The Elizabethan age in the history of English literature is associated with the reign of Queen Elizabeth I (1558-1603). It is considered to be the golden age when poetry and drama flourished. It is in this era during

which the theatrical art blossomed. Great writer like William Shakespeare, Sir Philip Sidney, Christopher Marlowe, Edmund Spenser, Thomas Sackville, Robert Green, Thomas Nashe, George Peele, George Gascoigne, John Lyly, Thomas Lodge, Thomas Kyd, Roger Ascham, Richard Hooker, Ben Johnson, Thomas Dekker, John Fletcher, Frances Beaumont, Michael Drayton, George Marston belonged to Elizabethan age. These writers, playwrights and poets contributed immensely to the field of English literature through their works.

6.1.1 George Gascoigne

George Gascoigne (1539- 1577) was born in Cardington, England. He is considered to be a renowned poet. Gascoigne went to Cambridge to study and from thereon he went to Middle Temple to pursue legal studies. In 1555, he joined Gray's Inn, one of the Inn of the court among four Inn which has a professional association for judges and barristers. He was a versatile personality as he had pursued several careers like that of a politician, courtier, soldier, and most importantly a man of letters. His famous works include *Hundredth Sundry Flowers* and *The Poises of George Gascoigne*. But later this works led him into a controversy as it exposed the scandals of the court. After this defame he decided to become a soldier and fight at Brielle in Netherlands. Unfortunately, he was taken as a prisoner of war. In the year 1574, that is two years after fighting the war he was freed and asked to return to England. He got his major works published after he returned from war. He died at the age of 42 in 1577 at Barnack in Peterborough.

His Major works include *The Fruites of War* and *The Adventures of Master F.J.* He translated *La Venerie* and *Hemetes*. He wrote several poems like "A Lover's Lullaby", "And If I Did What Then", "The Night is Near Gone", "You must not wonder, though you think it".

"And If I Did What Then" is a famous poem by Gascoigne. In the poem he expresses his anguish on being cheated by his beloved. He uses the metaphor of a fish to compare the fish to a woman. He uses the imagery of sea and expresses that the sea has variety of fishes for every fisherman, but he is saddened at the fact that why did the destiny give him a fish that was not good for him? In other words, he is talking about the beloved who had cheated him and left him. He laments the fact that why did the destiny give him a beloved who would cheat him? But towards the end gives a tone of assurance that as time passes life will go on sailing smoothly as earlier.

6.1.2 Thomas Sackville

Thomas Sackville was born in 1536, in Sussex, England. He was the son of a wealthy lawyer and administrator, Sir Richard Sackville. Sir Richard Sackville who was under-treasurer at Exchequer (the one who looks after the revenue and other official accounts related to government) was the first cousin of Anne Boleyn. After the death of Sir Richard Sackville, Thomas Sackville became the Baron of Buckhurst. Thomas Sackville served the parliament and also held the post of Lord High Treasurer. He died on 19th April 1608, at the council table.

He is known for his poems and drama and more importantly for his contribution to the development of drama and poetry in the Elizabethan era. His famous works include *Tragedy of Gorboduc* (1562), and two poems titled "*Induction*" (1563) and "*Buckingham's Complaint*" (1563). Thomas Sackville had not written much during his literary career as he was interested in being the Statesman and in being devoted in his services towards the government. Thomas Sackville is today remembered for his play *Tragedy of Gorboduc* that he wrote along with Thomas Norton. The play became the first neoclassical English tragedy and the first play that was written in blank verse.

Norton and Sackville took the details for the play from *Historia Regum Britanniae* (*History Of The Kings Of Britain*) that was authored by Geoffrey of Monmouth. It tells the story of a King called Gorboduc and his two sons Ferrex and Porrex. Gorboduc was a successful king but he did not wait for his death and hands away his kingdom to his sons. This leads into a quarrel between the two brothers. Ferrex who is the elder brother is suspicious of his brother's ambition and starts getting his military power strong so that he can defend himself when Porrex attacks. When Porrex comes to know about the military preparation, he sends his troop and get him killed. Videna, queen of Gorboduc hit back after the death of her most adored son and killed Porrex. The people of the kingdom shocked by the events taking place in the kingdom, they killed both the king and queen.

Gorboduc was for the first time performed at the Inner Temple in the presence of Queen Elizabeth I and Lord Robert Dudley, Lord Governor. This performance marked an important breakthrough in the history and the development of English drama.

6.1.3 Sir Philip Sidney

Born on 30th November, 1554 at Penshurst, England, Sir Philip Sidney is considered to be a great author and a statesman during the Elizabethan age. Sir Philip Sidney's mother was Mary Dudley who was the daughter of the duke of Northumberland. His father was Sir Henry Sidney. He

studied at Christ Church at Oxford and gained knowledge of French, Italian and Latin. He developed interest in knowing about European politics and came into contact with many leading statesmen. At the very early age, he became a cupbearer (a man of high rank whose duty is to serve to wine and other drinks) to the Queen Elizabeth and asked to go on political mission, he became an ambassador to the Emperor Rudolf II of Germany and Louis VI. In 1581 and again in 1584, Sir Philip Sidney became a Member of Parliament in Kent. In 1583, he married Frances who was the daughter of Sir Francis Walsingham, the secretary of the state of Queen Elizabeth. He was blessed with a daughter and he named her Elizabeth. Not gaining the position he wanted, he devoted himself to literature. He wrote a play titled *The Lady of May* for Queen Elizabeth. In 1585, after a long wait he was appointed as a joint master of the weaponry. Later he was also appointed as a Governor of the Dutch town of Flushing. He passed away in 1586 and was buried at St Paul's Cathedral in London.

Sir Philip Sidney contributed widely to English literature through his famous works titled *Arcadia* also called *The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia*, *Astrophel and Stella*, and *Defence of Poesie*- a seminal work in the history of English criticism. He wrote many famous poems like "A Ditty", "The Nightingale", "Ring Out Your Bells" and many more. Because of his literary reputation, Spenser had dedicated his famous work *The Shepherd's Calendar* to him.

The Defence of Poesie: *The Defence of Poesie* is a seminal work in the history of literary criticism that defends poetry in particular. He wrote *The Defence of Poesie* to refute Plato's stance. Plato in his famous work *Republic* declares that poets should be banned from the state. Considering this, Sir Philip Sidney puts forth his arguments saying that the poets through their poems had brought knowledge and learning to the human race. Literature in general and poetry in particular had the power to educate humanity in a better way as compared to history and philosophy. Sir Philip Sidney wrote *The Defence of Poesie* in the year 1582, but this work was published posthumously in the year 1595.

"The Nightingale": The poem "The Nightingale" is a famous poem written by Sir Philip Sidney. In the poem the poet addresses the mythical character named Philomela who was the daughter of King Pandion of Attica. Philomela was molested by Tereus who was her brother-in-law and a result of this shameful act she was in a great pain.

"Sings out her woes, a thorn her song-book making,
And mournfully bewailing,
Her throat in tunes expresseth
What grief her breast oppresseth

For Tereus' force on her chaste will prevailing.

-“The Nightingale” by Sir Philip Sidney

Philomela later is transformed into a nightingale and sings of her sorrows. Seeing this, the poet states that Philomela can at least sing of her pain and suffering and thereby give a vent to her emotions but as a man he cannot sing of his sorrows. His pain is more compared to that of the nightingale as is not able to express the it. The poem comprises of 24 lines and the base of the story is from the book titled *Metamorphoses* by Ovid.

6.1.4 Edmund Spenser

Edmund Spenser was born in 1552/ 53 in London, England. He is considered to one of the greatest poets in the history of English literature. Not much is known about the childhood and the family of Spenser. He went to Merchant Taylor School for his education where he got exposure to learn Greek and Latin. Later, his interest in religion and literature made him join Pembroke Hall, Cambridge University where he earned the degree of Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts. He became the secretary for the Bishop of Rochester. He even worked for Earl of Leicester. He was appointed as a secretary to the Lord Deputy of Ireland in the year 1580. He passed away in the year 1599. Because of his famous reputation as poet and his literary contribution he was buried in Poet's Corner in Westminster Abbey.

He contributed widely to the field of literature written during the renaissance through his famous works like “The Shepherdes Calender” (1579), “The Faerie Queene”, *Amoretti and Epithalamion*, *Britomart*. “The Faerie Queene” is considered to one of the longest epic poems written in English. It is in the poem “The Faerie Queen”, Spenser invented the Spenserian stanza. “The Faerie Queene” is considered to be an allegorical poem where the characters in the poem represent virtues. The poem is divided into six parts where part one presents the story of knight named Redcross who represents the virtue of holiness. The second part tells the story of Sir Guyon, who represents temperance. The third part highlights the virtue of chastity as represented in the character of Britomart. The fourth part is titled “The Legend of Cambell and Telamond” or “Of Friendship”, the fifth part tells the story of Sir Artegall symbolizing fairness and the sixth part tells the story of Sir Calidore representing the virtue of civility.

“**The Shepherdes Calender**” was Spenser's first important poetic masterpiece and he dedicated this work to Sir Philip Sidney. It is divided into twelve eclogues and each eclogue represents a month of the year. It highlights the pastoral life as presented by a common figure a shepherd. Spenser has also written lines praising Queen Elizabeth in this poem.

6.1.5 William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare is considered to be the greatest dramatist, poet and an actor of the Elizabethan age. He is considered to a national poet and he is also known as “Bard of Avon”.

William Shakespeare was born on April 23, 1564 at Stratford-upon-Avon, a town in England. And he was baptized on April 26, 1564. His father, John Shakespeare was burgess of the borough and later a bailiff. His mother was Mary Arden. It is said that because John Shakespeare was involved in various trade, he had suffered financial fluctuation. William Shakespeare got educated at Kind Edward VI Grammar School in Stratford. He married Anne Hathaway when he was eighteen years old. Anne Hathaway was around eight years elder to him. Form his marriage; he was blessed with two daughters Susanna and Judith. He was also blessed another child named Hamlet who later died at the age of 11. At the age of 52, he died on April 23, 1616 in Stratford-upon-Avon, England. He was buried at the Holy Trinity Church in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Shakespeare wrote around 154 sonnets that were published in the year 1609. These sonnets were written in form of Shakespearean sonnet where the fourteen-line poem was divided into three quatrains followed by a couplet. It is observed that the sonnets from 1 to 126 are addressed to a young man who is very charming and from 127 onwards, the sonnets are addressed to a Dark Lady whom he loved. His sonnets have universal appeal where he talks about love, jealousy, beauty infidelity, the ruthlessness of time etc.

Shakespeare’s sonnet no 116 ‘Let me not to the marriage of true minds’ among all the sonnets is very famous. The sonnet deals with the theme permanency of love. In this sonnet he has defined love. He says that a true love never changes with the passage of time. Rather it becomes stronger as the time passes. He adds that a true love will never change even though it finds changes in the lover. He says that a true love will always endure all the storms and tempest that would try to harm it. Love is something that would overcome all the obstacles without losing the commitment and love towards one another. He goes on to the extent of saying that if what he says about the love is wrong or he is proved wrong, he would never write and no man must have ever loved.

Sonnet no 18, “Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer Day” is yet another sonnet that is very famous. This sonnet is addressed to a young man, whom he compares to with a summer day. But later he realizes that the young man who was his beloved is more lovely and temperate and thus

cannot be compared to the summer. He says that the summer will pass away, its existence is temporary but the beauty of the young man will never fade as he has captured the beauty of the young man in his poem and it will live till men can see and breathe. Thus, it can be surmised that the poem is about the praise of the splendor of the young man who has been addressed time and again in the sonnets by Shakespeare.

William Shakespeare is also universally acclaimed as the greatest dramatist of the Elizabethan age. This is because his dramas are timeless having universal appeal. He possessed a great understanding of human nature and he imbibed all the qualities of human nature in his play. He wrote about love, jealousy, revenge, suffering, failures etc. He wrote tragedies, comedy and historical plays. He wrote comedy plays titled *As you like it*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Love Labour's Lost*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Tempest*, *Twelfth Night* and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*. The tragedies written by he includes *Romeo and Juliet*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Macbeth*, *Coriolanus*, *Cymbeline*, *Hamlet*, *Julius Caesar*, *King Lear*, *Othello*, *Troilus and Cressida*, *Timon of Athens*, *Titus Andronicus*. He wrote plays based on history namely *Henry IV Part I*, *Henry IV Part II*, *Henry VI Part III*, *Henry VIII*, *Henry V*, *Henry VI Part I*, *Henry VI Part II*, *Richard II*, *Richard III* and *King John*. **He wrote problem plays like** *All's Well That Ends Well*, *Measure for Measure* and *Troilus and Cressida*.

Julius Caesar is considered to be one of the greatest tragedies in the history of English literature written by William Shakespeare. It is also considered to be a historical play that was based on true events taken from the history of Rome. It tells the story of Caesar's assassination by his conspirators and the defeat of his conspirators towards the end of the play. Caesar's friend Brutus becomes jealous of Caesar's fame and victory and joins hands with Caesar's conspirators. Caesar is assassinated by Brutus and other rivals on the Ides of March. Mark Antony gives a speech at the funeral of Caesar and explains people of the kingdom the plot hatched by conspirators to kill Caesar. The speech by Mark Antony leads to commotion in the kingdom and conspirators are asked to leave the city. Cassius and Brutus start gathering the army to fight against Mark Antony who has collaborated with Caesar's nephew Octavius and Lepidus. A war breaks out and seeing the possibility of losing the war Cassius takes help of his servant to get himself killed. Brutus looks at the dead body of Cassius and realizes that the only way for dying honorably would be to kill his own self. Thus Brutus dies and Antony becomes the ruler of the Rome. Thus, William Shakespeare through this play tries to

present the nature of politics and how failure to understand and interpret people's motives and actions brings one's own downfall.

Thus, William Shakespeare through his plays and sonnets contributed notably to the Elizabethan era.

6.1.6 University Wits

University Wits is a name given to a group of scholars who were graduates from Cambridge and Oxford and who came together because of their passion for writing. They contributed greatly to the field of English literature through their scholarly works. University Wits were great playwrights and poets of 16th century. This group of scholars known as University Wits includes Christopher Marlowe, Robert Green, Thomas Nashe (graduates from Cambridge), Thomas Lodge, George Peele, John Lyly (graduates from Oxford) and Thomas Kyd who was not from any of these universities. However, it was Christopher Marlowe who contributed greatly as a dramatist. It was Christopher Marlowe who gave life to the theatre and transformed the stage into an industry.

Christopher Marlowe: Christopher Marlowe, predecessor of William Shakespeare was a famous poet and playwright of the Elizabethan age. He is called "The Father of English Tragedy". It was Christopher Marlowe who introduced dramatic blank verse into the field of literary writing.

Christopher Marlowe was born in the 1564 in Canterbury, England. His father, John Marlowe was a shoemaker at Canterbury. He studied at Corpus Christi College in Cambridge. He wrote extensively for the theatres in London. He was killed in fight over the bill by Ingram Frizer on May 30, 1593 at a lodging house in Deptford.

His famous works include *Tamburlaine the Great*, *Doctor Faustus* or *The Tragically History of the Life and Death of Doctor Faustus*, *Dido*, *Queen of Carthage*, *Edward II*, *Hero and Leander*.

The Tragical History of the Life and Death of Doctor Faustus: This play by Christopher Marlowe was published in 1604. The play that is divided in five acts tells the story of Doctor Faustus who is doctor, a scholar of medicine. But he desires to learn magic in order to become powerful. Valdes and Cornelius teach him magic. Through his magic, he brings to him a devil called Mephistopheles. Faustus asks Mephistopheles to go back to his master and ask for him twenty-four years of power and in return he would sell his soul to Lucifer. The angles from heaven do warn him not to make the bond but Faustus does not agree and makes a contract using his blood to sign it. But later Faustus begins to repent his decision. And to divert his attention, Lucifer and Mephistopheles makes

Faustus engaged in several magical tricks where he could feel his power. For example, he invokes the spirit of Helen of Troy.

Later, Faustus starts repenting on his deeds and hopes to get salvation but he knows that he cannot go back and he won't be forgiven for being so ambitious. And towards the end of the play the devil appears and takes his soul. Thus, Dr Faustus' ambition for power and glory brings his own destruction.

Robert Greene: John Greene was born in 1558 in Norwich. He studied at Cambridge. Greene began his literary career with the publication of *Mamillia*, a long romance. He came to be known as a lyrical poet because of his unique style in writing of poems. His famous plays include *Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay*, *A Looking Glass for London and England*, *The History of Orlando Furioso*, *The Scottish History of James the Fourth*, *A Pleasant Conceited Comedy of George a Green*. His another famous work which is considered to be an attack on William Shakespeare is titled *Greene's Groats-Worth of Witte, bought with a million of Repentance*. It is said that he did this because of his jealousy for Shakespeare who was becoming famous at that time. Robert Greene died in the year 1592, in London.

Thomas Nashe: Thomas Nashe, son of William Nashe and Margaret Nashe, was born in 1567 at Lowestoft in England. He studied at Cambridge University and later got associated with literary scholars famously known as University Wits. He was a well-known playwright, poet and satirist. In 1592, he wrote his first work, a prose satire titled *Pierce Penilesse His Supplication to the Divell*. Later he authored *The Unfortunate Traveler* in 1594 which is considered to be the first picaresque novel written in English. His other famous work includes *The Anatomie of Absurditie*, *Preface to Greenes Menaphon*, *An Almond of a Parrot*, *Preface to Sir Philip Sidney's Astrophel and Stella*, play titled *Summer's last Will and Testament*, *Have with You to Saffron-Walden*. He died in the year 1601, at a very young age of 34.

Thomas Lodge: Thomas Lodge was born in the year 1558, in West Ham, London. His father, Thomas Lodge was a Lord Mayor of London. He received his education from Merchant Taylor School and at Trinity College, Oxford. He even studied at Lincoln's Inn in London. His famous works include *Rosalynde: Euphues Golden Legacie*, *Margarite of America*, *An Alarum Against Usurers*, *Scillaes Metamorphosis*, *Phyllis* and *Momus*. His work *An Alarum Against Usurers* presented how moneylenders trapped heirs of aristocratic families in debt by indulging them into luxurious life.

In 1588, Lodge fled to South America. He lived there for a long time and got himself enrolled in a course in medicine. In 1598, he became a graduate from University of Avignon. Later he did his M.D from Oxford and became a medical practitioner in London. He fought hard against the plague and died in 1625.

George Peele

George Peele was born in the year 1556 in London. He was known as a dramatist and a poet. He studied at Christ's Hospital and later at Broadgates Hall at Oxford. He wrote the famous play titled *The Arraignement of Paris*, a pastoral drama. His another famous works includes *Famous Chronicle of King Edward the First* and *The Old Wives' Tale*. He wrote other plays like *David and Bethsade*, *Battle of Alcazar*. He fell ill due to pox and died at the age of 40 in the year 1596.

John Lyly

John Lyly was born in the year 1552 in Kent, England. He studied at Magdalen College, Oxford. He became famous with his prose romances titled *Euphues: The Anatomy of Wit* (1578) and *Euphues and His England* (1580). His another famous works (plays) includes *Endimion*, *Gallathea*, *Love's Metamorphosis*. In the later years of his life, John Lyly's fame started to diminish due to the rise of William Shakespeare and Christopher Marlowe. He had tough time living with financial problems. He died in the year 1606 with a heavy debt on him.

6.1.7 Samuel Daniel

Samuel Daniel was born in 1562 at Taunton, England. Samuel Daniel matriculated from Magdalen Hall at Oxford but later he left his studies without earning a degree. He became an English ambassador at Paris. He travelled extensively where he met the poet Battista Gaurini in Padua, Italy. During his travel, he got exposed to Italian and French literature that helped him to develop understanding of literary work which in turn influenced his drama. He became a tutor of William Herbert and therefore lived at Wilton. At Yorkshire, he became the tutor of Lady Anne Clifford. In the year 1604, on the demand of Queen Anne, he wrote play *The Vision of Twelve Goddesses*. At the completion of the play, Queen Anne awarded him with the right to license plays at Blackfriars Theater.

Samuel Daniel is appreciated as a historian and a lyric poet. He wrote some famous plays that include *The Tragedie of Cleopatra*, *The Vision of the Twelve Goddesses* (1604), *The Tragedy of Philotas* (1605), *The Queen's Arcadia* (1606), *Tethys Festival* (1610), *Hymen's Triumph* (1615). His other major works are *Musophilus*, or *Defence of all Learning* (1602-3), *A Defence of Ryme* (1603), *The Civil*

Wars (1595-1623), *The Collection of the History of England* (1621), *Sonnets to Delia* (1592)

In the final years of his life, Samuel Daniel concentrated all his efforts in writing his final dramatic work *Hymen's Truimph* that focused on the history of England. He died on 14th October, 1619 at Beckington.

There are several other prominent writers like Roger Ascham, Richard Hooker, Ben Johnson, Thomas Dekker, John Fletcher, Frances Beaumont, Michael Drayton and George Marston who have contributed to the Elizabethan age through their literary works.

Roger Ascham (1515-1568) is known for his work *Toxophilus*, a book on archery which he dedicated to Henry VIII and another important work is titled *The School Master*. John Fletcher (1579- 1625) became the most influential dramatist of his time. His famous plays include *The Island Pricesse*, *A Wife for a Moneth*, *The Mad Lover*, *The Humorous Lieutenant*.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 1
ANSWER THE QUESTIONS IN DETAIL.

1. What is the contribution of William Shakespearean as poet?

2. Critically comment of the play *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare.

3. How did University Wits contribute to the Elizabethan age?

4. Critically comment on “Doctor Faustus as a tragic hero”.

5. Critically appreciate the poem “ If I Did What Then”.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 2

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS IN BRIEF.

1. How did Sir Philip Sidney defend poetry in his seminal work *The Defence of Poesy*?

2. What is the meaning of the word “Sonnet”?

3. Which are the famous tragedies written by William Shakespeare?

4. What is the role of Mephistopheles in the Dr Faustus’s damnation?

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5. What leads to the death of King Gorboduc in the play *The Tragedy of Gorboduc*?

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 3

WRITE SHORT NOTES.

1. William Shakespearean as a dramatist
2. *The tragedy of Gorboduc* by Thomas Sackville
3. Christopher Marlowe
4. Sir Philip Sidney
5. Edmund Spencer

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 4

CHOOSE APPROPRIATE OPTION FROM GIVEN BELOW.

- 1) Whom has Robert Green criticized in his famous work *Groats-Worth of Witte, bought with a million of Repentance*?
a) Sir Thomas Wyatt b) William Shakespeare
c) Sir Philip Sidney d) Thomas Sackville
- 2) William Shakespeare has written _____ sonnets
a) 145 b) 154
c) 144 d) 140
- 3) What is the name of the devil that appeared before Dr Faustus ?
a) Mephistopheles b) Qwan
c) Valdes d) Cornelius
- 4) "The Shepherdes Calender" by Spenser is divided into _____ eclogues
a) 13 b) 12
c) 14 d) 11
- 5) Who among the following is not considered to be 'University Wits'?
a) Christopher Marlowe b) Robert Greene
c) Thomas Nashe d) Thomas Norton

- 6) *Mamilia* is a famous work by _____?
 a) Thomas Nashe b) George Peele
 b) John Lyly d) Thomas Norton
- 7) *Hamlet* is a play written by _____
 a) William Shakespeare b) John Still
 c) Thomas Sackville d) George Gascoigne
- 8) “And If I Did What Then” is a poem by _____.
 a) George Gascoigne b) William Shakespeare
 c) Sir Thomas Wyatt d) None
- 9) What was the name of William Shakespeare’s wife?
 a) Anne Hathaway b) Margaret Hathaway
 c) Julia Hathaway d) Olivia Hathaway
- 10) *The Vision of the Twelve Goddesses* is written by _____.
 a) Sir Philip Sidney b) Samuel Daniel
 c) Lord Henry Howard d) William Shakespeare

6.2 LET US SUM UP

The contribution of Elizabethan writers has been substantial in the history of English literature. It was the contribution of these great writer that helped the poetry and drama to flourish in the ages to come. The work by these great Elizabethan writers had highly influenced the coming generations of the poets and dramatist. Thus, Elizabethan age rightly came to be known as the golden age in the history of English literature.

6.3 KEY WORDS

- Eclogues** It refers to a pastoral poem that highlights the rural life and life of shepherds. It presents how the people living in the rural setup live a peaceful country life which free from the corrupt world and people resulting into happiness and harmony.
- Sonnet** A poem that consist of fourteen lines and is written with a fixed rhyme scheme. It is written in iambic pentameter.
- Problem play** A form of drama that highlights issues related to society through the debates between the characters performing of the stage.

6.4 SUGGESTED READING

1. *Elizabethan Writers* by Charles Nicholl
2. *Framing Elizabethan Fictions: Contemporary Approaches to Early Modern Narrative Prose* by Constance Relihan,
3. The Uses of the Canon: Elizabethan Literature and Contemporary Theory by Howard Felperin
4. Sons and Authors in Elizabethan England by Derek B. Alwes
5. *Poets A-K Portal*. Britannica. www.britannica.com › Literature › Poetry › Poets A-K
6. *Poetry Foundation*. <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/>

6.5 REFERENCE/ WEBSITES

1. www.britannica.com › Literature › Poetry › Poets A-K
2. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Gorboduc-mythical-king-of-Britain>
3. <https://poets.org/poet/edmund-spenser>
4. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Philip-Sidney>
5. www.poetryfoundation.org › Poets
6. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Faerie_Queene
7. <https://www.enotes.com/topics/shepherdess-calender>
8. <https://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/d/doctor-faustus/play-summary>
9. <https://www.enotes.com/homework-help/why-did-robert-greene-dislike-shakespeare-449483>

ANSWERS

- 1) B: William Shakespeare
- 2) B: 154
- 3) A: Mephistopheles
- 4) B: 12
- 5) D: Thomas Norton
- 6) D: Robert Greene
- 7) A: William Shakespeare
- 8) A: George Gascoigne
- 9) A: Anne Hathaway
- 10) B: Samuel Daniel