

Dressing as a child in Shakespeare's time

William Shakespeare was born in 1564 and died in 1616.
His first play was written in 1589 at the time of Queen Elizabeth I –
So costume wise we are firmly in the time of the Tudors.

If you were wealthy – the Elizabethan time was one of extravagance – noble men and women paraded around like Peacocks – in spectacular outfits....that were padded to create extra shapes – and slashed to reveal extra colours!

There were also strict rules about who could wear what – only a baron or a higher rank could wear a silver cloth – and if you got it wrong you could be put in the stocks!

Children wore smaller versions of adult clothes – so think Henry VIII and especially Elizabeth and you'll have the idea!

BOYS

Wealthy - wore knee britches, a jacket, some sort of neck ruff and a cap.. with perhaps a feather in it!

If you were not wealthy – then boys still wore knee britches, a shirt and waistcoat, again with cap and simple shoes.

Basically the styles of clothing were the same – but it was the fabric that was really important to show your 'standing' in society.

(long shorts, plain shirt, waistcoat, cap, long socks or tights/ leggings and plain shoes)

GIRLS

Girls – long dresses, sleeves down to wrists, underneath they wore an underskirt (kirtle) and a bodice. (Think Snow White). Perhaps there was a jacket on top with a high collar.

Whether you were rich or poor – the 'dress' was roughly the same but your status was shown by the fabric of your 'dress'.

Shoes – ballet pumps (or black school shoes). Tights – (of course)
Jewelry – rings and locket were all the rage along with those pearls girls...

Hose – tights really – were worn by boys and girls.....

Rich or poor – Elizabeth 1 helped girls to make the most of their hair! Braided and studded with jewels – with a hat or cap, or a simple veil, even a straw hat in the summer!