**Answers to History Week 1 Task**

**Write down what Shakespeare’s bequests were to the following people:**

* Susanna (eldest daughter) - his house and land in Stratford called New Place, two houses with lands in Henley Street in Stratford and all his barns, stables, orchards, gardens, lands and houses in the towns hamlets, villages, fields & grounds of Stratford-upon-Avon, Old Stratford, Bushopton & Welcombe in the county of Warwick. Also the house and lands in which John Robinson lives, near the Wardrobe in Blackfriars, London, and all other lands and buildings.
* Judith (second daughter) - £150 and his broad silver gilt bowl
* Joan Hart (sister) - £20 and all his clothes, which she should receive by the end of the first year after his death. Also the house in Stratford and everything belonging to it, for her to live in for the rest of her life.
* Joan’s three sons (nephews) - £5 each
* Elizabeth Hall (granddaughter) - all my plate (except his broad silver gilt bowl)
* The poor of Stratford - £10
* Mr Thomas Combe (friend’s nephew) – his sword

**Who, in your opinion, is missing from the list above?** His wife

**Who is put in charge of the will (the executor)?** His son-in-law John Hall and his daughter Susanna

**What does Shakespeare leave to his wife?** His second best bed with all the bedding and curtains

**Is there anything to suggest even this bequest is an afterthought?** It is right at the end of the will.

**Many experts suggest that this is in no way an insult – suggest three alternative explanations for Shakespeare’s gift:**

* The best bed was for guests only, so the second best bed would have been Mr and Mrs Shakespeare’s bed!
* He would have assumed that Susanna and her husband would have had his wife still living with them, so there was no need to leave her a lot in the will.
* It was important to him to make sure his daughters and nephews were provided for, as they were the young generation.