Stratford-upon-Avon, a small and historic Elizabethan market town on the River Avon in Warwickshire, enjoys worldwide fame as the birthplace of William Shakespeare. The town center dates extensively from the 16th and 17th centuries, surrounded by areas of greenery and charming sections of riverbank, as well as the historic Stratford-upon-Avon Canal. Many attractive rows of half-timbered houses have been preserved, including Shakespeare's home, where visitors can still follow in the footsteps of the world's most famous playwright. Stratford-upon-Avon was also an important halt for stage coaches between London, Oxford and the North. In medieval times, the Avon was spanned by a wooden bridge. This was replaced in the 15th century by the Clopton Bridge, a much-photographed stone bridge still in use today. The Clopton Bridge was named for the wealthy Stratford merchant, Hugh Clopton, who financed its construction and who later went on to become Lord Mayor of London. Stratford entrances with its natural scenic beauty, its graceful swans, weeping willow trees and shady riverside walks. Above all, it is a town permeated by the Stratford-upon-Avon is the town where William Shakespeare was born and is buried. Every year, millions of people celebrate his life and work by visiting the town. You'll find Shakespeare's home town in the heart of England, on the banks of the river Avon. We recommend planning your visit to Shakespeare's home town with the Shakespeare's England website - it's full of ideas for day trips around the area including Warwick, Leamington Spa and Kenilworth. Mary Arden's House and the adjacent Palmer's Farm demonstrate life on a Tudor working farm - they're both open from March through to November. Anne Hathaway's Cottage. Before her marriage to William Shakespeare, Anne Hathaway lived in Shottery, a small village that you'll find about a mile away from Stratford.
Stratford-upon-Avon is all about Shakespeare for the visitor, but exactly what is there to see and how long should you allow? The answer is about the same as how long is a piece of string! If your visit is aboard a guided coach tour then your trip to Stratford will often not be longer than 90 minutes and you will probably only visit one Shakespeare attraction, the most popular being Shakespeare's Birthplace, conveniently close to the coach park in the centre of town. Shakespeare's Birthplace and visitor centre/exhibition in Stratford is the number one attraction for day visitors to Stratford. If you come on a coach tour from London indeed this may be the only Shakespeare attraction you visit. Shakespeare obviously loved historic Stratford Upon Avon, the town in which he was born: although he went to work in London and made his career and his fortune there, he maintained the strongest links with Stratford. He visited his family and his Stratford friends regularly, he bought property in Stratford, and he involved himself in the affairs of the town. Situated right in the centre of England, Elizabethan Stratford was an important river-crossing settlement, market town and regional centre. A striking medieval bridge spanned the Avon River, which ran through Stratford, and farmers and people in Stratford, Quiney was sentenced to the full white sheet penance, to be performed on three successive Sundays, but the local priest, the judge of the bawdy court, allowed him to commute the worst of the punishment by paying a fine to help maintain the poor of the parish. The image of Coriolanus is from the Folger Shakespeare Library’s collections. This entry was posted in Shakespeare's World, Stratford-upon-Avon and tagged Bawdy Court, Coriolanus, E R C Brinkworth, Ecclesiastical Court, J R Mulryne, Judith Shakespeare, Quiney, Susannah Shakespeare, will. Bookmark the permalink. 
The Shakespeare authorship question encompasses around 70--80 alternative theories on the traditionally held view that William Shakespeare wrote his own. The writing styles of Marlowe and Shakespeare are similar, with consistent use of styling and themes such as comedy and the supernatural. In fact, Marlowe is widely believed to have written passages of Richard III by even traditional Shakespeare believers. The Marlowe theory was so strongly held by writer Calvin Hoffman that the terms of his will funded a prize for a yearly essay writing competition on the topic.