Getting dressed in Shakespeare’s time

The poorer people dressed in simpler clothes. However, if you could afford it, you would wear very fancy clothes indeed. People judged you by what you wore. Many people went into debt trying to impress others.

Both boys and girls wore long dresses until they could go to the bathroom by themselves. Then they started dressing in mini versions of what the adults wore.

**Women**
- **Chemises** were long shirts that were also worn to bed as a night shirt.
- **Stomachers** were V-shaped inserts that covered the bodice.
- **Bodices** were corsets made of bones or stiff reeds. They made the waist and ribcage look smaller.
- **Wings** hid the ties that connected the sleeves to the waistcoat.
- **Farthingales** were underskirts with bone or wood hoops.
- **The overskirt** had a slit in the front. It often matched the waistcoat.
- **Underskirts** or **petticoats** were worn over a chemise. Several were worn in the winter for warmth.

**Men**
- **When to tip your hat and to whom were important manners of the day.**
- **Men** wore ruffs, too. People also wore **whisks**, or flat, starched collars that were held up in the back.
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**Farthingales** were usually the most expensive part of a man’s clothing.

**Doublets** were jackets worn over waistcoats. They were often padded.

**Trunk hose** stuffed with rags and old papers covered the upper thighs.

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**Waistcoats** were blouses with laces that held up a petticoat.

**Platform shoes** raised up the wearers so dress hems would not get muddy.