

Ministry of Higher education
University of Tikrit
College of Basic Education / Al-
Shirqat



*An Introduction to Drama, One Act Play
and Hamlet*

English Department

Third Stage

First Semester

Instructor
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Hamlet becomes filled with rage and decides that he must kill his uncle. Unfortunately, Hamlet thinks that his uncle is behind a curtain, stabs through the curtain, and kills a friend named Polonius, who is the father of Laertes, in the same time, Claudius hears of Hamlet's return and he conspires with Laertes, Polonius's son, to murder Hamlet. Laertes will use a poison-tipped sword during a fight with Hamlet, and Claudius will have a poisoned drink at the ready. Hamlet stabs Claudius and forces him to drink the poisoned wine .

The revenge plot is thus concluded. Hamlet himself then dies from the wound received during the fight with Laertes. It was a tragedy play by Shakespeare .

Hamlet's Soliloquy:-

"To live or not to live" (or "To live or to die"). Hamlet discusses how painful and miserable human life is, and how **death** (specifically suicide) would be preferable and the fearful uncertainty of what comes after **death**.

Symbols

Yorick's Skull

In Hamlet, physical objects are rarely used to represent thematic ideas. One important exception is Yorick's skull, which Hamlet discovers in the graveyard in the first scene of Act V. As Hamlet speaks to the skull and about the skull of the king's former jester, he fixates on death's inevitability and the disintegration of the body. He urges the skull to "get you to my lady's chamber, and tell her, let her paint an inch thick, to this favor she must come"—no one can avoid death (V.i.178–179). He traces

the skull's mouth and says, "Here hung those lips that I have kissed I know not how oft," indicating his fascination with the physical consequences of death (V.i.174–175). This latter idea is an important motif throughout the play, as Hamlet frequently makes comments referring to every human body's eventual decay, noting that Polonius will be eaten by worms, that even kings are eaten by worms, and that dust from the decayed body of Alexander the Great might be used to stop a hole in a beer barrel.

Key facts

1. **Full Title** THE TRAGEDY OF HAMLET, PRINCE OF DENMARK
2. **Author** William Shakespeare
3. **Type of work** Play
4. **Genre** Tragedy, revenge tragedy
5. **Language** English
6. **Time and place written** London, England, early seventeenth century (probably 1600–1602).
7. **Date of first publication** 1603, in a pirated quarto edition titled THE TRAGICALL HISTORIE OF HAMLET; 1604 in a superior quarto edition.
8. **Protagonist** Hamlet
9. **Major Conflict** Hamlet feels a responsibility to avenge his father's murder by his uncle Claudius, but Claudius is now the king and thus well protected. Moreover, Hamlet struggles with his doubts about whether he can trust the ghost and whether killing Claudius is the appropriate thing to do.
10. **Rising Action** The ghost appears to Hamlet and tells Hamlet to

revenge his murder; Hamlet feigns madness to his intentions; Hamlet stages the mousetrap play; Hamlet passes up the opportunity to kill Claudius while he is praying.

11. **Climax** When Hamlet stabs Polonius through the arras in Act III, scene iv, he commits himself to overtly violent action and brings himself into unavoidable conflict with the king. Another possible climax comes at the end of Act IV, scene iv, when Hamlet resolves to commit himself fully to violent revenge.
12. **Falling Action** Hamlet is sent to England to be killed; Hamlet returns to Denmark and confronts Laertes at Ophelia's funeral; the fencing match; the deaths of the royal family.
13. **Setting (Time)** The late medieval period, though the play's chronological setting is notoriously imprecise.
14. **Settings (Place)** Denmark
15. **Foreshadowing** The ghost, which is taken to foreshadow an ominous future for Denmark.
16. **Tone** Dark, ironic, melancholy, passionate, contemplative, desperate, violent .
17. **Themes** The impossibility of certainty; the complexity of action; the mystery of death; the nation as a diseased body
18. **Motifs** Incest and incestuous desire; ears and hearing; death and suicide; darkness and the supernatural; misogyny.
19. **Symbols** The ghost (the spiritual consequences of death); Yorick's skull (the physical consequences of death).