

QUICK CARD: *HAMLET*



<i>Reference</i>	<i>Hamlet</i> . William Shakespeare. (1599 or 1602) ISBN-13: 978-0451526922
<i>Plot</i>	Grief-stricken Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, mourns the sudden death of his father and the even-more-sudden marriage of his mother to his father's brother! When his father's ghost visits him to reveal the details surrounding his death, he urges Hamlet to exact revenge upon his murderous, usurping uncle. Hamlet hesitates. Is the spirit real or a demon sent to lure him to a crime of his own? Will Hamlet act?
<i>Setting</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elsinore, Denmark • The King's palace • A kingdom on the brink of invasion and war • A kingdom corrupted by murder and usurpation • Prince Hamlet's young adulthood • Two months after the death of good King Hamlet and immediately following the queen's remarriage to the deceased king's brother.
<i>Characters</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hamlet, the prince and protagonist • The Ghost of King Hamlet, the murdered king and father of Hamlet • King Claudius, the traitor-uncle and now step-father of Hamlet • Queen Gertrude, the foolish, easily led queen and Hamlet's mother • Polonius, adviser to the king. A moralistic prattler and busybody • Laertes, Polonius's good son and a peer (foil) of Prince Hamlet • Ophelia, Laertes's sister and one time girlfriend of Prince Hamlet • Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, one time school friends of Hamlet, now fools used as tools by the king to sound out the young prince • Horatio, Prince Hamlet's true friend • Fortinbras, the prince of Norway, intnt on restoring the property lost by his father to Denmark. Another foil to Hamlet. • The acting troop, who set the trap with their play for the king
<i>Conflict</i>	<p>Man vs Society – Denmark vs Norway; Claudius vs Norway (usurpation) Man vs. Man – Hamlet vs Claudius Man vs. Self – Hamlet vs his conscience and indecision Man vs. Nature/God – Hamlet vs the spirit (Is he deceived?)</p>

<i>Theme</i>	The divine right of kings Filial loyalty Action/Indecision Revenge
<i>Literary Devices</i>	Blank verse Theatrical drama Dramatic irony