

# Survey of Selected Western Classics

## Unit 4: Shakespeare- Hamlet

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The [Chandos portrait](#), artist and authenticity unconfirmed. [National Portrait Gallery, London](#)

# William Shakespeare

- Born 26 April 1564 ([baptised](#)) – 23 April 1616 at [Stratford-upon-Avon](#), Warwickshire, [England](#).
- English [poet](#) and [playwright](#), widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist.
- often called England's [national poet](#) and the "Bard of Avon".



# Complete Works of Shakespeare

<http://shakespeare.mit.edu/> 📖

- 39 PLAYS
- 154 Sonnets
- 4 Narrative poems
- Other poetry

# 1589 -- 1613

- Early plays were mainly comedies and histories (1589-1600)
- Tragedies (about 1600-1608)  
Hamlet, King Lear, Othello, and Macbeth, considered some of the finest works in the English language.
- Tragicomedies (Romances) and last plays  
– (1608-1613/14)

# The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark

- Act 1, Scene 1: [Elsinore. A platform before the castle.](#)  
Act 1, Scene 2: [A room of state in the castle.](#)  
Act 1, Scene 3: [A room in Polonius' house.](#)  
Act 1, Scene 4: [The platform.](#)  
Act 1, Scene 5: [Another part of the platform.](#)
- Act 2, Scene 1: [A room in POLONIUS' house.](#)  
Act 2, Scene 2: [A room in the castle.](#)
- Act 3, Scene 1: [A room in the castle.](#)  
Act 3, Scene 2: [A hall in the castle.](#)  
Act 3, Scene 3: [A room in the castle.](#)  
Act 3, Scene 4: [The Queen's closet.](#)
- Act 4, Scene 1: [A room in the castle.](#)  
Act 4, Scene 2: [Another room in the castle.](#)  
Act 4, Scene 3: [Another room in the castle.](#)  
Act 4, Scene 4: [A plain in Denmark.](#)  
Act 4, Scene 5: [Elsinore. A room in the castle.](#)  
Act 4, Scene 6: [Another room in the castle.](#)  
Act 4, Scene 7: [Another room in the castle.](#)
- Act 5, Scene 1: [A churchyard.](#)  
Act 5, Scene 2: [A hall in the castle.](#)



# *Hamlet*--Sources

- Shakespeare based *Hamlet* on the legend of [Amleth](#), preserved by 13th-century chronicler [Saxo Grammaticus](#) in his [Gesta Danorum](#) as subsequently retold by 16th-century scholar [François de Belleforest](#).
- He may also have drawn on or perhaps written an earlier (hypothetical) [Elizabethan](#) play known today as the [Ur-Hamlet](#).



## 主要角色（一）

- **哈姆雷特（Prince Hamlet）** — **丹麥王子**。在城外透過遇見父王的鬼魂，知道自己父親乃遭到叔父克勞地毒害，經過一次舞台劇的演出證明叔父克勞地為殺父兇手... 為了報復，經歷痛苦掙扎後他達成目的，整個**王宮**也陷入死亡的恐怖中。他最後也中了致命的毒劍死去。
- **克勞地（Claudius）** — **丹麥現任國王**。哈姆雷特的叔父，在哥哥死後繼任王位。在哈姆雷特知道其為殺父凶手後，他百般阻撓，最後死在侄子復仇的毒劍下。
- **鬼魂 / 丹麥前任國王（King Denmark, Ghost）** — 哈姆雷特的父親死後化成鬼魂。他被弟弟毒死時，哈姆雷特正在國外。
- **葛楚德（Gertrude）** — **丹麥王后，王子的親生母親**。先王死後改嫁克勞地，在**莎士比亞**的時代這種關係被視為**亂倫**，所以引起哈姆雷特的仇恨。她替哈姆雷特誤喝下克勞地預藏的毒酒，當場身亡。



## 主要角色（二）

- **波隆尼爾（Polonius）** — 克勞地的**御前大臣**。他是出名的老頑固，阻撓哈姆雷特與自己女兒歐菲莉亞之間的愛情。哈姆雷特總是假裝蠢頭蠢腦來戲弄他。他躲在一塊掛毯後，偷聽哈姆雷特與王后的談話時，被王子一劍刺死。
- **雷爾提（Laertes）** — **波隆尼爾的兒子**。為了父親和妹妹的死用劍殺死哈姆雷特。他也死在哈姆雷特的毒劍下，儘管當時哈姆雷特沒有意識到劍是帶毒的。
- **歐菲莉亞（Ophelia）** — **波隆尼爾的女兒**。她與哈姆雷特陷入愛河，但種種阻力警告王子，政治地位使他們無望結合。作為哈姆雷特瘋狂復仇計劃的一部分，她被他無情拋棄，加上父親的死讓她精神錯亂，最終失足落水溺斃。

## 主要角色（三）

- **赫瑞修（Horatio）** — 哈姆雷特在大學的好友。他沒有直接捲入王室之間的陰謀，成為哈姆雷特的傳聲筒，莎士比亞用他來烘托劇情。雖然他曾揚言要自殺，但卻是唯一活到劇終的主要角色。
- **羅生克蘭和蓋登思鄧（Rosencrantz & Guildenstern）** — 都是哈姆雷特的大學同學。他們受克勞地之請前來照顧哈姆雷特。雖然兩人在劇中無太大用處，王子很快就懷疑兩人是間諜。當國王下密令要處死遠在英國的哈姆雷特時，他把名字偷換了。於是兩人在幕後莫名其妙地死去。
- **福丁布拉（Fortinbras）** — **挪威王子**。在劇中只有短短過場戲。他的重要性在於，由他說出全劇的最後台詞，似乎象徵一個更為光明的未來，闡述了劇作



# Themes and Motifs

- **Doubleness**- duplicity, deception, parallel, contrast- **play-within-a-play** (*Mousetrap*)
- **Delay**- inaction, procrastination
- **Depression**- melancholy, black bile
- **Death** - soliloquies [1:2; 3:1; 5:1]
- **Poison**- literal and metaphorical
- **Revenge**- duty, vengeance, resignation
- **Good vs. Evil**

# Revenge Play- the Senecan Model

- A secret **murder**
- A **ghostly visitation** of the murder victim to a kinsman/son
- A period of **disguise, intrigue, or plotting**, in which the murderer and the avenger scheme against each other
- A descent into either **real or feigned madness** by the avenger or one of the auxiliary characters
- An eruption of general **violence at the end**, which (in the Renaissance) is often accomplished by means of a **feigned masque or festivity**
- A **catastrophe** that utterly destroys the characters, including the avenger



# Revenge Play- themes



- Both the **stoicism of Seneca** and his political career leave their mark on Renaissance practice.
- In the English plays, **the avenger is either stoic or struggling to be so**; in this respect, the main thematic concern of the English revenge plays is **the problem of pain**.
- Politically, the English playwrights used the revenge plot to explore **themes of absolute power, corruption in court, and of factional concerns** that applied to late Elizabethan and Jacobean politics as they had to Roman politics.



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6	The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, Act 1, Scene 1: Elsinore. A platform before the castle. .....Act 5, Scene 2: A hall in the castle.		<a href="http://shakespeare.mit.edu/hamlet/index.html">http://shakespeare.mit.edu/hamlet/index.html</a> 瀏覽日期 : 2013/10/25 依據著作權法第 46、52、65 條合理使用。

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8	<p>哈姆雷特（Prince Hamlet）—丹麥王子。在城外透過遇見父王的鬼魂，...她替哈姆雷特誤喝下克勞地預藏的毒酒，當場身亡。</p>		<p>WIKIPEDIA:  <a href="http://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E5%93%88%E5%A7%86%E9%9B%B7%E7%89%B9">http://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E5%93%88%E5%A7%86%E9%9B%B7%E7%89%B9</a>          瀏覽日期 : 2013/10/25</p>



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9	<p>波隆尼爾（Polonius）—克勞地的御前大臣。……作為哈姆雷特瘋狂復仇計劃的一部分，她被他無情拋棄，加上父親的死讓她精神錯亂，最終失足落水溺斃。</p>		<p>WIKIPEDIA:  <a href="http://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E5%93%88%E5%A7%86%E9%9B%B7%E7%89%B9">http://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E5%93%88%E5%A7%86%E9%9B%B7%E7%89%B9</a>            瀏覽日期：2013/10/25</p>
10	<p>赫瑞修（Horatio）—哈姆雷特在大學的好友。……由他說出全劇的最後台詞，似乎象徵一個更為光明的未來，闡述了劇作主題。</p>		<p>WIKIPEDIA:  <a href="http://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E5%93%88%E5%A7%86%E9%9B%B7%E7%89%B9">http://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E5%93%88%E5%A7%86%E9%9B%B7%E7%89%B9</a>            瀏覽日期：2013/10/25</p>

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