

# Hamlet Course Curriculum



**The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark**, often shortened to **Hamlet** is a tragedy written by William Shakespeare sometime between 1599 and 1601.

It is Shakespeare's longest play, with 30,557 words. Set in Denmark, the play depicts Prince Hamlet and his revenge against his uncle, Claudius, who has murdered Hamlet's father in order to seize his throne and marry Hamlet's mother.

Hamlet is considered among the most powerful and influential works of world literature. It was one of Shakespeare's most popular works during his lifetime and still ranks among his most performed, topping the performance list of the Royal Shakespeare Company and its predecessors in Stratford-upon-Avon since 1879. It has inspired many other writers—from Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and Charles Dickens to James Joyce and Iris Murdoch—and has been described as "the world's most filmed story after Cinderella".

This course is designed for KS4 students who may be studying Hamlet at GCSE level, or KS3 students with a love of Shakespeare.

Each class is two hours long. A homework will be set each week which will mainly consist of pre-reading in preparation for the next lesson.



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	Learning objectives	Keywords
L1	To understand how ghosts appear in Hamlet	Ghosts Prophecy Foreshadow Pathetic Fallacy
L2	To understand the relationships between Polonius, Laertes and Ophelia	Court Chief Counsellor
L3	To understand the relationship Hamlet has with the ghost	Revenge Vengeance Incest
L4	To understand how the King's ghost is presented	Connotation Denotation 'antic disposition'
L5	To understand how Hamlet's madness is presented	Analysis
L6	To understand the role of tragedy and tragic heroes in Shakespeare	Hamartia Hubris Tragic hero
L7	To understand Polonius' plan.	Arras
L8	To understand the language of Shakespeare	Soliloquy Blank Verse Rhyming Couplets
L9	To understand the importance of Hamlet's soliloquy	Soliloquy
L10	To understand how the relationship between Ophelia and Hamlet is developed	
L11	To understand how Hamlet's madness is developed	Madness
L12	To understand the role Claudius played in King Hamlet's death	Judge Juror Regicide
L13	To understand the relationship between Hamlet and his mother	Oedipus complex
L14	To understand how Hamlet feels about killing Polonius To understand how Ophelia is presented	
L15	To understand the effects of Polonius' murder	

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L16	To understand how Hamlet reacts to Ophelia's death	
L17	To understand how Shakespeare presents the relationship between Hamlet and Ophelia	
L18	To understand how the play ends	