

4º de ESO
and the English Department

PRESENT

The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark

By William Shakespeare



The King of Denmark is married to Queen Gertrude. The King's brother, Claudius, wants to be king. He kills the king and gets married to Gertrude. One night, the ghost of the murdered king tells Prince Hamlet to kill his uncle Claudius...

Hamlet is Shakespeare's longest play and among the most powerful and influential tragedies in the English language. During Shakespeare's lifetime, the play was one of his most popular works, and today it is one of his most-performed.

'To be or not to be, that's the question.'

Act I

One night, the old King (Hamlet's father,) appears to Hamlet and tells him that his brother Claudius (the new King) killed him. He asks Hamlet to revenge him, but Hamlet is not sure. He has an idea: pretend that he's mad and observe his uncle; if Claudius killed Hamlet's father, Hamlet will kill him.



Act II

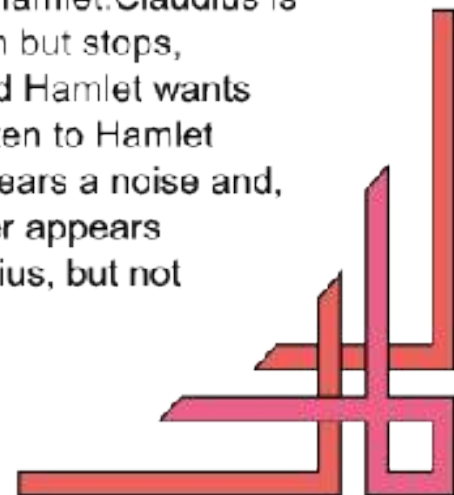
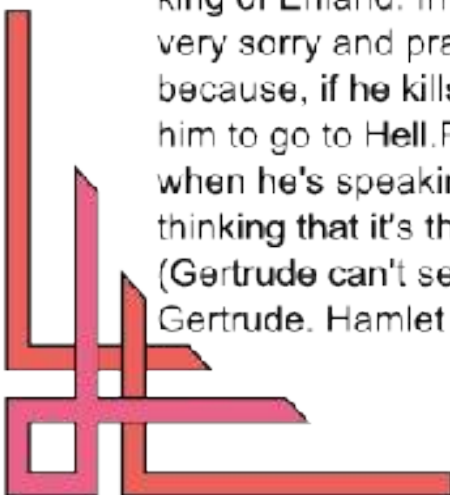
Ophelia, who is in love with Hamlet, tells his father (Polonius, a royal councillor) that Hamlet is saying strange things now. Polonius and Claudius observe Hamlet and decide that he is mad because he's in love with Ophelia.

Claudius and Gertrude invite two of Hamlet's friends, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, and ask them to observe Hamlet and decide why he is mad. A company of actors arrive in the castle. Hamlet asks them to modify the play and represent the old King's death. He will observe Claudius and decide if he killed his father or not.



Act III

Rosencrantz and Guildensterns don't understand Hamlet (he knows that they're working for Claudius and doesn't like them). Claudius and Polonius hide to listen to Hamlet when he's speaking to Ophelia. Polonius thinks that Hamlet is in love with Ophelia but Claudius thinks that Hamlet is dangerous and decides to send him to England. The family watch the play. In the play, the King's brother kills the King and marries the Queen. Claudius is terrified because the play is his story and he stops it. Hamlet is very angry with Rosencrantz and Guildenstern. Claudius tells them to go to England with a letter to the king of England. In this letter, Claudius asks him to kill Hamlet. Claudius is very sorry and prays to God. Hamlet is going to kill him but stops, because, if he kills him, Claudius will go to Heaven and Hamlet wants him to go to Hell. Polonius hides behind a curtain to listen to Hamlet when he's speaking to his mother, Gertrude. Hamlet hears a noise and, thinking that it's the King, kills Polonius. Hamlet's father appears (Gertrude can't see him) and asks Hamlet to kill Claudius, but not Gertrude. Hamlet goes to England





Act IV

Ophelia is mad because his love, Hamlet, is mad and he killed her father.

Laertes, Ophelia's brother and Polonius's son, comes to kill Hamlet and sees that his sister is mad because of Hamlet.

Ophelia dies when she falls into the river.

Hamlet doesn't go to England because some pirates attacked the ship and he's free now. He secretly meets Horatio in the cemetery. It's Ophelia's funeral and Laertes and Hamlet fight.

Claudius has a plan: He asks Laertes to pretend that he's Hamlet's friend again and to invite him to a game of swords, which Hamlet likes a lot. Claudius will put some poison in Laertes's sword and in the wine to kill Hamlet.



Act V

Hamlet explains to Horatio that he saw the letter to the king of England and that he changed it: now the king of England will kill Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

Laertes invites Hamlet to the game of swords.

The game starts and Claudius puts some poison in Laertes's sword and in the wine. Laertes and Hamlet play; Laertes touches Hamlet but the swords fall to the ground and Hamlet touches Laertes. Gertrude drinks the wine and dies. Laertes is sorry, tells Hamlet about the poison and dies. Hamlet kills Claudius and dies. Only Horatio is alive. The Norwegian army enters the castle.



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Cast of Characters

Lara *The old King, now a ghost*
Samuel *The King, Claudius, the old King's brother*
Cristina *The Queen, Gertrude*
Xosé *The Prince, Hamlet*

Pablo *Polonius, a councillor*
Ariadna *Ophelia, his daughter*
Jose *Laertes, Polonius's son and Ophelia's brother*

Víctor *Horatio, Hamlet's friend*
Nerea *Rosencrantz and*
Verónica *Guildestern, Hamlet's friends*

Silvia *Actors:*
Andrea *King*
Abel *Queen*
Lucianus

Ángel *A priest*

