

MACBETH  
HAMLET  
THE TEMPEST

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# WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

As we know from previous presentation Shakespeare was an author of many love sonnets .

Plays was written mostly in verse , although they contain scenes written in prose or compound of verse and prose especially in comedies.

As a dramaturgist Shakespeare dwarf Shakespeare the poet.



MR. WILLIAM  
SHAKESPEARES  
COMEDIES,  
HISTORIES, &  
TRAGEDIES.

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LONDON  
Printed by Ifaac Iaggard, and Ed. Blount. 1623.



"Here let us breathe and haply institute  
A course of learning and ingenious studies."  
-The Taming of the Shrew 1.1-8.9

Richard III

Twelfth Night

A Midsummer

Dream

Machbeth  
Romeo

Othello

& Juliet

Hamlet

JULIUS CAESAR

King Lear



# MACBETH

This Shakespeare's shortest and bloodiest historical tragedy is based on real story:

- Macbeth (main character ) and Banquo are historical character.
- The time of action cover lordship of Macbeth (17 years)
- Many places of action (heathland; Macbeth castle – Inverness; military camp at Forres; Macduff castle; Dunsinane Hill [ end of Macbeth story])

*Macbeth* is not Shakespeare's most complex play, but it is certainly one of his most powerful and emotionally intense.

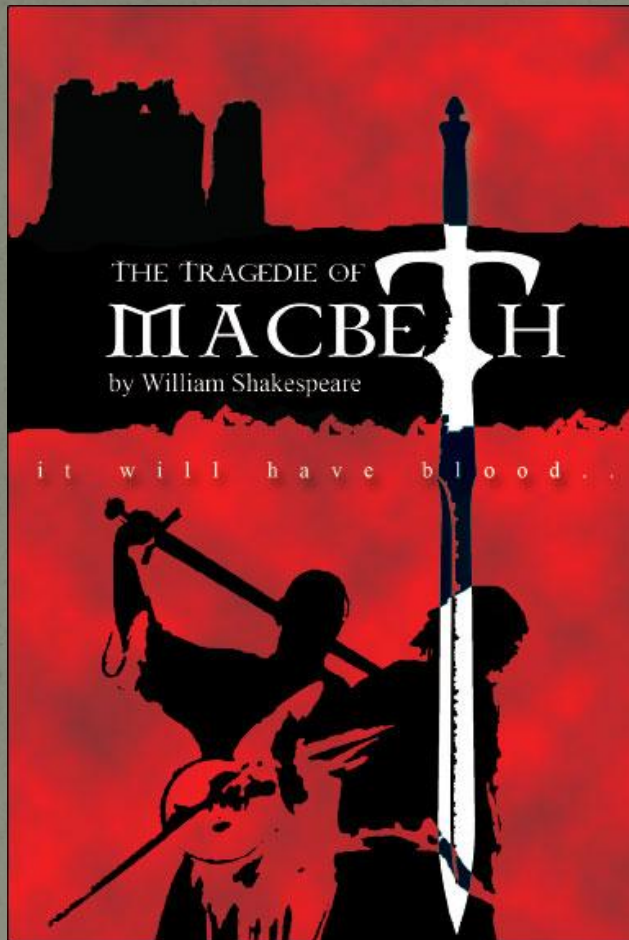


# KEY FACTS

- **full title** · *The Tragedy of Macbeth*
- **author** · William Shakespeare
- **type of work** · Play
- **genre** · Tragedy
- **language** · English
- **time and place written** · 1606, England
- **date of first publication** · First Folio edition, 1623
- **setting (time)** · The Middle Ages, specifically the eleventh century
- **setting (place)** · Various locations in Scotland; also England, briefly

- **protagonist** · Macbeth
- **major conflicts** · The struggle within Macbeth between his ambition and his sense of right and wrong; the struggle between the murderous evil represented by Macbeth and Lady Macbeth and the best interests of the nation, represented by Malcolm and Macduff
- **themes** · The corrupting nature of unchecked ambition; the relationship between cruelty and masculinity; the difference between kingship and tyranny
- **motifs** · The supernatural, hallucinations, violence, prophecy
- **symbols** · Blood; the dagger that Macbeth sees just before he kills Duncan; the weather

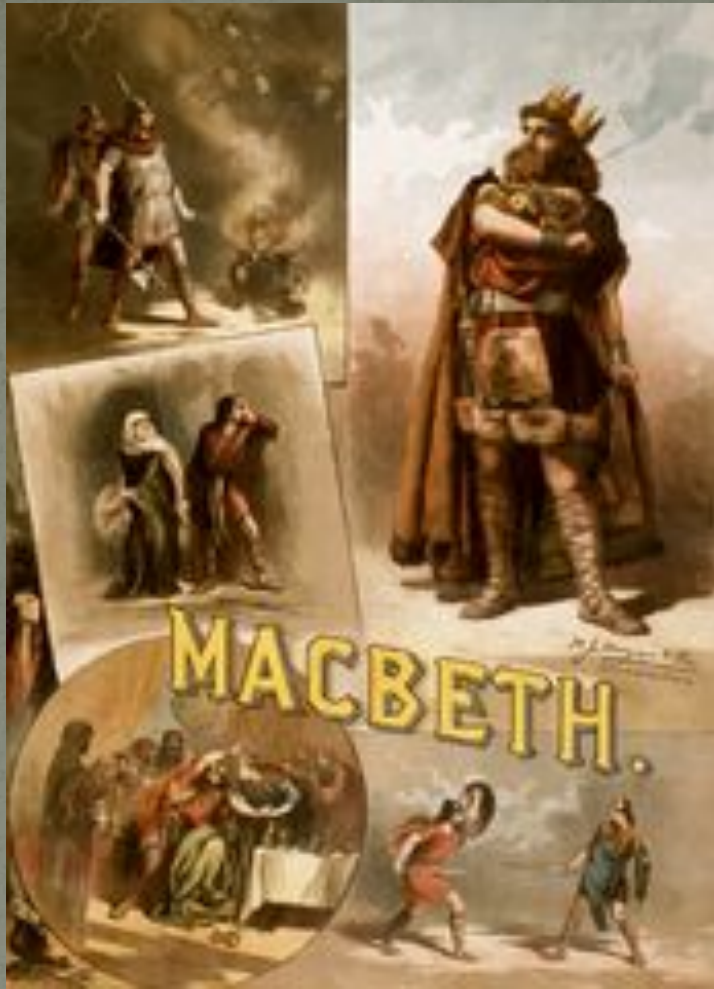




# BRIEF

*The Tragedy of Macbeth* tells the story about a brave Scottish general (Macbeth) who receives a prophecy from a trio of sinister witches that one day he will become King of Scotland. Consumed with ambitious thoughts and spurred to action by his wife, Macbeth murders King Duncan and seizes the throne for himself. He begins his reign racked with guilt and fear and soon becomes a tyrannical ruler, as he is forced to commit more and more murders to protect himself from enmity and suspicion. The bloodbath swiftly propels Macbeth and Lady Macbeth to arrogance, madness, and death.





# MAIN CHARACTERS

Macbeth:

- the main character of the drama
- the chief of the Scottish army
- the cousin of King Duncan
- he is a brave, courageous and honourable soldier and immaculate nobleman



## Lady Macbeth:

- she is the unhappiest among of all murderers created by Shakespeare
- she is driven by the strong passions
- the woman who is ready for everything
- she loves and hates with the same power
- she is very caring as a wife
- she desires a fullfilment
- she can't focus on domestic problems and issues

# SUMMARY

”Macbeth” involves extremely crucial thoughts. Moreover, this well-written drama broaches a lot of significant problems.

First and foremost, Shakespeare uses the example of Macbeth to show how the desire of power can change the personality and how it influences on the change of behaviour of a human.

At first, the murder is an abstract act which is impossible to commit for Macbeth. However, after committing the first crime (the murder of Duncan) he transforms from an ideal vassal into a regicide.



According to Lady Macbeth, she is totally besotted with the perspective of becoming a queen. She persuades her husband to the crime but then she protects him.

She seems to be mentally stronger. She cools under pressure in situations as dangerous as the occurrence at the feast when Macbeth almost reveals his secret.

Nonetheless, the craziness which touches Lady Macbeth is much more stronger and much more thrilling than the Macbeth's illness. It's the result of a restless nature, loneliness, personal defeats and tragic motherhood. The death is an escape for spouses from their own nature. Lady Macbeth commits a suicide. She perishes as an unhappy and lonely woman.

Shakespeare pays attention mainly to the relationship between man and evil. Author expresses the conviction that every evil which is caused to the other people comes back and hurts the culprit (something which is similar to Karma). The murderer must be punished. Mackbeth is killed by the Macduff, who comes back from the banishment to take revenge on the tyrant.

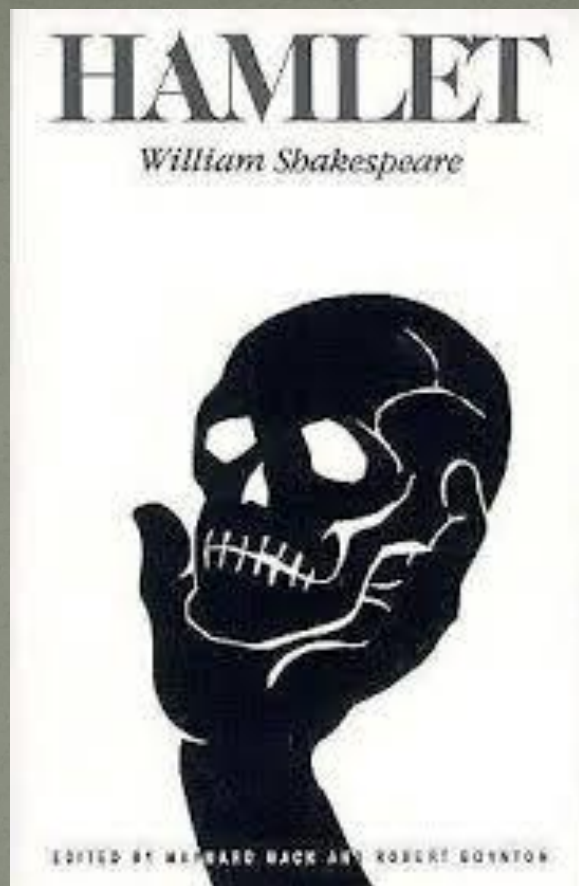
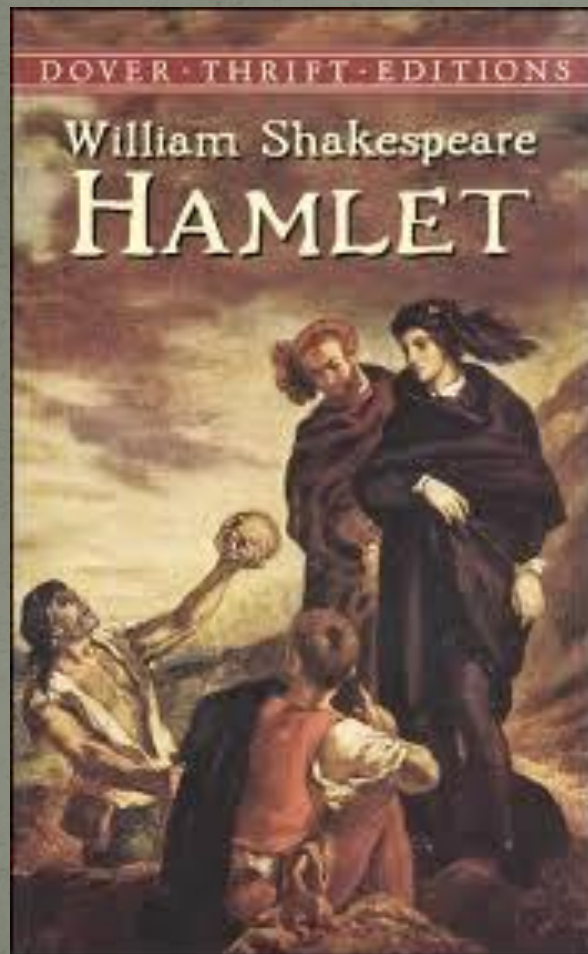
Furthermore, Shakespeare creates a great psychological study of the man who really desires the power but also fights with the compunctions.



# HAMLET

*The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark*, often shortened to *Hamlet*, is a tragedy written by William Shakespeare at an uncertain date between 1599 and 1602.

Set in the Kingdom of Denmark, the play dramatizes the revenge Prince Hamlet is called upon to wreak upon his uncle, Claudius by the ghost of Hamlet's father, King Hamlet. Claudius had murdered his own brother and seized the throne, also marrying his deceased brother's widow.





# HISTORICAL FACTS

*Hamlet* is Shakespeare's longest play and among the most powerful and influential tragedies in English literature, with a story capable of "seemingly endless retelling and adaptation by others." The play seems to have been 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 writers from Goethe and Dickens to Joyce and Murdoch, and has been described as "the world's most filmed story after Cinderella".

The story of *Hamlet* ultimately derives from 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. Shakespeare may also have drawn on an earlier (hypothetical) Elizabethan play known today as the *Ur-Hamlet*, though some scholars believe he himself wrote the *Ur-Hamlet*, later revising it to create the version of *Hamlet* we now have. He almost certainly created the title role for Richard Burbage, the leading tragedian of Shakespeare's time. In the 400 years since, the role has been performed by highly acclaimed actors from each successive age.



Three different early versions of the play are extant: the First Quarto (Q1, 1603), the Second Quarto (Q2, 1604), and the First Folio (F1, 1623). Each version includes lines, and even entire scenes, missing from the others. The play's structure and depth of characterisation have inspired much critical scrutiny. One such example is the centuries-old debate about Hamlet's hesitation to kill his uncle, which some see as merely a plot device to prolong the action, but which others argue is a dramatisation of the complex philosophical and ethical issues that surround cold-blooded murder, calculated revenge, and thwarted desire. More recently, psychoanalytic critics have examined Hamlet's unconscious desires, while feminist critics have re-evaluated and rehabilitated the often maligned characters of Ophelia and Gertrude

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HAMLET,

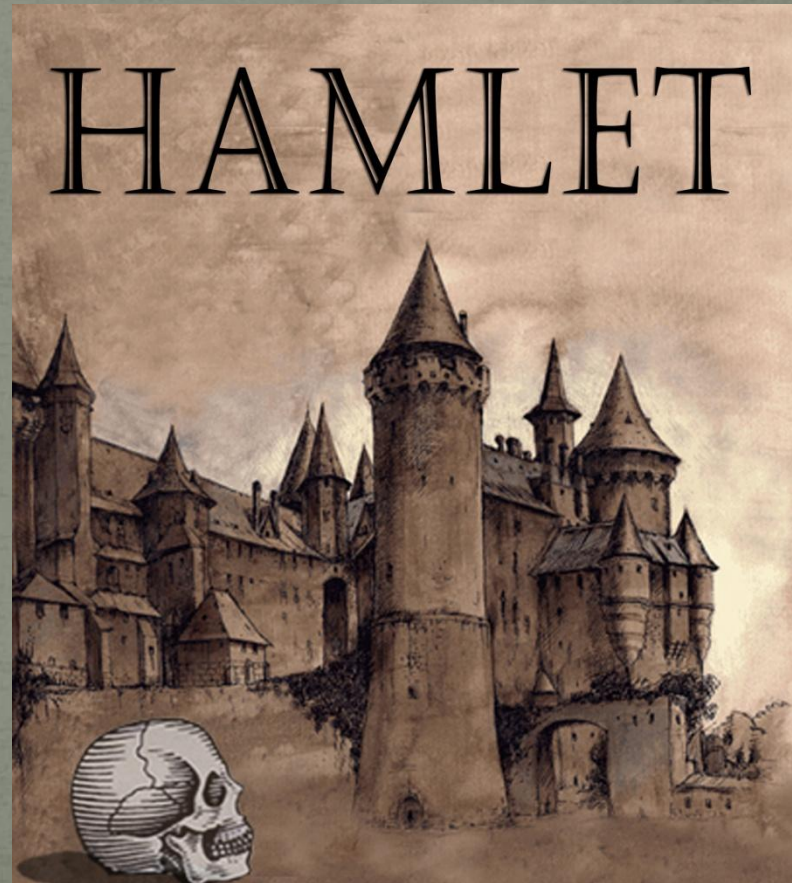
*Prince of Denmark.*

By William Shakespeare.

Newly imprinted and enlarged to almost as much  
again as it was, according to the true and perfect  
Copie.



AT LONDON,  
Printed by I. R. for N. L. and are to be sold at his  
shoppe vnder Saint Dunstons Church in  
Fleetstreet: 1616.





# DRAMATIC STRUCTURE

*Hamlet* departed from contemporary dramatic convention in several ways. For example, in Shakespeare's day, plays were usually expected to follow the advice of Aristotle in his *Poetics*: that a drama should focus on action, not character. In *Hamlet*, Shakespeare reverses this so that it is through the soliloquies, not the action, that the audience learns Hamlet's motives and thoughts. The play is full of seeming discontinuities and irregularities of action, except in the "bad" quarto. At one point, as in the Gravedigger scene, Hamlet seems resolved to kill Claudius: in the next scene, however, when Claudius appears, he is suddenly tame.

Scholars still debate whether these twists are mistakes or intentional additions to add to the play's themes of confusion and duality. Finally, in a period when most plays ran for two hours or so, the full text of *Hamlet*—Shakespeare's longest play, with 4,042 lines, totalling 29,551 words—often takes over four hours to deliver. Even today the play is rarely performed in its entirety, and has only once been dramatised on film completely, in Kenneth Branagh's 1996 version. *Hamlet* also contains a favourite Shakespearean device, a play within the play, a literary device or conceit in which one story is told during the action of another story.



# INTERESTING FACTS

- 1. *Hamlet* is Shakespeare's longest play at 4,042 lines and with a running time of around 5 hours. For obvious reasons, the play is often edited and shortened, but when Shakespeare's original audience saw it, that was a very long stretch of sitting...on wooden seats.
- 2. Disney's *The Lion King* is based on *Hamlet*. Simba is Hamlet: his father is murdered by his uncle and he, eventually, seeks vengeance. But while *The Lion King* has the tear-jerker dad's death scene, it also has a much happier ending!

- 3. *Hamlet* is the second most filmed story in the world...coming second to *Cinderella*.

There have been over fifty screen adaptations of *Hamlet*. One of the first filmed versions was made well over a century ago, in 1908.

Since then, notable versions have included Laurence Olivier's in 1948, Kenneth Branagh's in 1996, and Michael Almereyda's 2000 adaptation, with a modern twist, starring Ethan Hawke.



- 4. Shakespeare probably used Saxo Grammaticus' legend of Amleth as a source for the play.

Amleth (Anglicised to 'Hamlet'), Prince of Denmark's father is killed by his own brother.

In order to put his uncle on the back foot, Amleth "...chose to feign dullness, and pretend an utter lack of wits. This cunning course not only concealed his intelligence but ensured his safety.

"Every day he remained in his mother's house utterly listless and unclean, flinging himself on the ground and bespattering his person with foul and filthy dirt. His discoloured face and visage smutched with slime denoted foolish and grotesque madness." (Amleth, Prince of Denmark, from the Gesta Danorum of Saxo Grammaticus, edited by D. L. Ashliman).

Sound familiar?

- 5. *Hamlet* was among Shakespeare's most popular works during his own lifetime...and has remained one of his most often performed plays.

From the play's very first performances, it was a hit. Over four centuries on, it's still one of Shakespeare's most popular and frequently performed plays - that's some longevity!





# THE TEMPEST

”THE TEMPEST” is the last play written by the Shakespeare. It is said to be a metaphoric farewell with the stage and poetry. *The Tempest* is a difficult play to categorize. Although it ends in a wedding and thus might be defined as a comedy, there are many serious undertones that diminish the comedic tone.







# KEY FACTS

- **full title** · *The Tempest*
- **author** · William Shakespeare
- **type of work** · Play
- **genre** · Romance
- **language** · Elizabethan English
- **time and place written** · 1610–1611; England
- **date of first publication** · 1623
- **setting (time)** · The Renaissance
- **setting (place)** · An island in the Mediterranean sea, probably off the coast of Italy

- **protagonist** · Prospero
- **major conflict** · Prospero, the duke of Milan and a powerful magician, was banished from Italy and cast to sea by his usurping brother, Antonio, and Alonso, the king of Naples. As the play begins, Antonio and Alonso come under Prospero's magic power as they sail past his island. Prospero seeks to use his magic to make these lords repent and restore him to his rightful place.
- **themes** · The illusion of justice, the difficulty of distinguishing "men" from "monsters," the allure of ruling a colony
- **motifs** · Masters and servants, water and drowning, mysterious noises
- **symbols** · The tempest, the game of chess, Prospero's books





# SYMBOLS

Shakespeare uses many symbols throughout the play; however, the most important one comes at the very beginning. The Tempest was a symbol in itself. The tempest that begins the play, and which puts all of Prospero's enemies at his disposal, symbolizes the suffering Prospero endured, and the suffering he wants to inflict on others.



The Tempest is also a symbol of Prospero's magic and the frightening side of it which he uses to manipulate his enemies. Another symbol Shakespeare uses in which he expresses himself through is Prospero. Prospero represents an evil part of civilization in which he uses his magic in order to get revenge on his enemies. Although Prospero may seem evil, he is also a character that gains sympathy because of the conflict he had faced in the past. Prospero can be empathetic and calm, as shown when he gracefully allays Miranda's fears for the safety of the men; but, he is also angry and vengeful, when he speaks of his past and his brother's alleged treachery

## THE GAME OF CHESS

The object of chess is to capture the king.

## PROSPERO'S BOOKS

Like the tempest, Prospero's books are a symbol of his power. The books are also a symbol of Prospero's dangerous desire to withdraw entirely from the world. It was his devotion to study that put him at the mercy of his ambitious brother, and it is this same devotion to study that has made him content to raise Miranda in isolation.



# MOTIFS

- **MASTERS AND SERVANTS:** nearly every scene in the play either explicitly or implicitly portrays a relationship between a figure that possesses power and a figure that is subject to that power.
- **WATER AND DROWNING:** the play is full of references to water.
- **MYSTERIOUS NOISES:** The isle is indeed, as Caliban says, “full of noises” .The play begins with a “tempestuous noise of thunder and lightning” and the splitting of the ship is signaled in part by “a confused noise within” .

Stage 2 presents

# THE TEMPEST

BY  
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

THU 14 — SAT 16 APRIL





THE END

