

Hamlet by William Shakespeare (Published by Folger)

Approved for use in Advanced Placement Communication Arts IV, Communication Arts IV, and Contemporary Communications.

Summary

Hamlet is the Prince of Denmark. He has returned from college to find that his father, King Hamlet, has died and his mother has quickly remarried her brother-in-law, Claudius. Two of Hamlet's friends tell him that they have been seeing his father's ghost nightly. When night comes, Hamlet talks with his father's ghost who tells him that his brother, Claudius, has murdered him. He charges Hamlet with the responsibility of avenging his death. Hamlet's fatal flaw is indecision, and throughout the play Hamlet puts off killing Claudius which eventually leads to his own death.

Connection to the Curriculum

Many critics consider *Hamlet* the tightest and most well-constructed of Shakespeare's plays. In both CAIV and APIV students study the play and perform scenes. The language of *Hamlet* is a testament to Shakespeare's incredible vocabulary as well as his ability to weave examples of figurative language, character development, and a complex plot structure into the play.

Standards

Course Objectives (Benchmarks)

Reading: 1.2- The students read fluently. 1.3- The students expand vocabulary. 1.4- The students comprehend a variety of texts.

Literature: 2.1-The students use literary concepts to interpret and respond to text

Writing: 3.9- The students use a variety of modes or writing for different purposes and audiences.

Research: 4.2- The students use ethical research practices.

Possible Skills Taught (Indicators)

Reading:

1.3.5- The student identifies, interprets, and analyzes the use of figurative language including similes, metaphors, analogies, hyperbole, imagery and symbolism.

1.4.13- The student compares and contrasts varying aspects (character traits and motives, ideas, themes, problem-solution, cause-effect relationships, ideas and concepts, procedures, viewpoints, authors' purposes, themes, persuasive techniques, use of literary devices, thoroughness of supporting evidence) in one or more appropriate-level texts.

Literature:

2.1.2- The student analyzes the historical, social, and cultural contextual aspects of the setting and their influence on characters and events in the story of literary text.

Writing:

3.1.3- The student uses the writing process in various formats such as journal entries, research reports, speeches, business letters, scripts, essays, lab reports, critical analysis of current events, and reaction papers in all content areas.

Research:

4.2.6- The student expresses information in his own words using organization, grammar, word choice, and tone appropriate for audience.

A Note on the Text: (The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

Connected to the development of this tragedy are ghosts, poisoning, murder, suicide, and revenge. These are all addressed in typical Shakespeare fashion that reveals man's faults without shocking readers or audiences.

AP Connections

Students will practice AP Literature and Composition excerpts from *Hamlet* and also practice free response questions using *Hamlet* as the major work.

Additional Unit Design Connections

Coming soon