

Approved for use in all levels of English IV

Summary of the Work:

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.

Rationale:

Many critics consider *Hamlet* the tightest and most well-constructed of Shakespeare's plays. In both CAIV and AIV 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.

Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:

- * Print resources are available from the library media center and libraries in the district. Contact any library media specialist to view the scholarly sources.
- * Scholarly reviews are also available online through Books in Print and Gale. Contact the library media specialist to obtain username and password information to access the subscription database of full-text reviews.

Noted Distinction:

Readability:

- Lexile Score: NP
- Readability Level: 10.5

Learning Resources Guidelines:

- The novel meets the Learning Resources Guidelines.

Standard Alignment: ([link](#))

Approval:

Submitted to Committee:

Approved for Adoption: 1990

Notes 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.

Connection to the Curriculum:

Shakespearian tragedy is an important part of our cultural literacy and the canon of western literature.

Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616 Criticism, Tragedies, English drama History and criticism.

Additional Connections:

(AP, Honors, Essential/Applied, Dramas, Films, etc.)