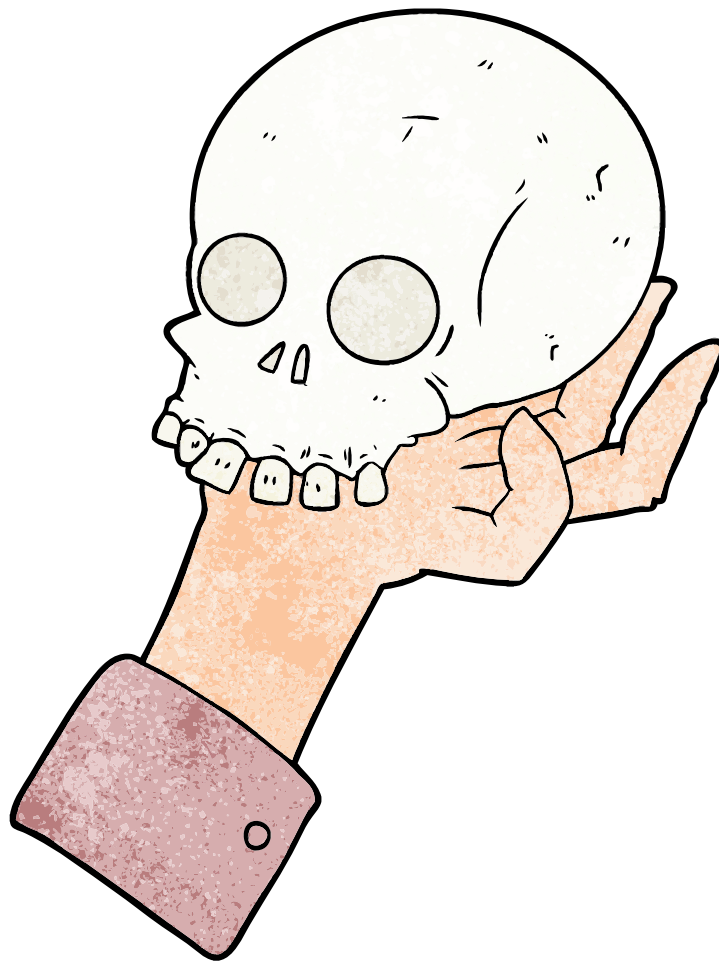


William Shakespeare's  
**HAMLET**

**Study Guide**

*prepared by Barter Theatre*



# HAMLET

by William Shakespeare

**Performed by Barter Theatre's resident acting company, Spring 2025**

**NOTE: Standards listed below are seeing a performance of *Hamlet* and completing the study guide**

## **VA Standards of Learning**

6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6.7, 6.8, 6.9, 6.10, 6.11, 6.12, 6.13, 6.14, USII.1, TA1.1, TA2.1, TA3.1, TA4.1, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 7.6, 7.7, 7.8, 7.9, 7.10, 7.11, 7.12, 7.13, USII.2, TA1.2, TA2.2, TA3.2, TA4.2, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6, 8.7, 8.8, 8.9, 8.10, 8.11, 8.12, 8.13, 8.14, USII.3, TA1.3, TA2.3, TA3.3, TA4.3, 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5, 9.6, 9.7, 9.8, 9.9, 9.10, 9.11, 9.12, 9.13, 9.14, USII.4, TA1.4, TA2.4, TA3.4, TA4.4, 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 10.5, 10.6, 10.7, 10.8, 10.9, 10.10, 10.11, 10.12, USII.5, TA1.5, TA2.5, TA3.5, TA4.5, 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 11.4, 11.5, 11.6, 11.7, 11.8, 11.9, 11.10, 11.11, USII.6, TA1.6, TA2.6, TA3.6, TA4.6, 12.1, 12.2, 12.3, 12.4, 12.5, 12.6, 12.7, 12.8, 12.9, 12.10, USII.7, TA1.7, TA2.7, TA3.7, TA4.7

## **TN Academic Standards**

6.RL.KID.1, 6.RL.KID.2, 6.RL.CS.4, 6.RL.IKI.9, 6.SL.CC.1, 6.SL.PKI.4, 7.RL.KID.1, 7.RL.KID.2, 7.RL.CS.4, 7.RL.IKI.9, 7.SL.CC.1, 7.SL.PKI.4, 8.RL.KID.1, 8.RL.KID.2, 8.RL.CS.4, 8.RL.IKI.9, 8.SL.CC.1, 8.SL.PKI.4, 9-10.RL.KID.1, 9-10.RL.KID.2, 9-10.RL.CS.4, 9-10.RL.IKI.9, 9-10.SL.CC.1, 9-10.SL.PKI.4, 11-12.RL.KID.1, 11-12.RL.KID.2, 11-12.RL.CS.4, 11-12.RL.IKI.9, 11-12.SL.CC.1, 11-12.SL.PKI.4, TA.6.1, TA.6.2, TA.6.3, TA.7.1, TA.7.2, TA.8.1, TA.8.2, TA.9.1, TA.9.2, TA.10.1, TA.10.2, TA.11.1, TA.11.2, TA.12.1, TA.12.2

## **NC Common Core Standards**

RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.4, RL.6.7, SL.6.1, SL.6.2, SL.6.5, RL.7.1, RL.7.2, RL.7.3, RL.7.4, RL.7.7, SL.7.1, SL.7.2, SL.7.5, RL.8.1, RL.8.2, RL.8.3, RL.8.4, RL.8.7, SL.8.1, SL.8.2, SL.8.5  
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RL.11-12.1, RL.11-12.2, RL.11-12.3, RL.11-12.4, RL.11-12.7, SL.11-12.1, SL.11-12.2, SL.11-12.5, TA.6.1, TA.6.2, TA.6.3, TA.7.1, TA.7.2, TA.8.1, TA.8.2, TA.9.1, TA.9.2, TA.10.1, TA.10.2, TA.11.1, TA.11.2, TA.12.1



# BARTER THEATRE

## A Brief History

Barter Theatre was founded during the Great Depression by Robert Porterfield, an enterprising young actor. When Porterfield and some of his actor friends found themselves out of work and hungry in New York City, Porterfield suggested they sojourn to his home in southwest Virginia where there was an abundance of food but no live theatre. He returned to Washington County with an extraordinary proposition: bartering produce from the farms and gardens of the area to gain admission to see a play.

Barter Theatre opened its doors on June 10, 1933 proclaiming, “With vegetables you cannot sell, you can buy a good laugh.” The price of admission was 40 cents or the equivalent in produce; the concept of trading “ham for Hamlet” caught on quickly. At the end of the first season, the Barter Company cleared \$4.35 in cash, two barrels of jelly and enjoyed a collective weight gain of over 300 pounds.

In 1946, Barter Theatre was designated the state theatre of Virginia and became a launching pad for the careers of many iconic actors and actresses. Barter has also become one of the nation’s longest running professional theatres, receiving countless awards and accolades.

Robert Porterfield passed away in 1971. His successor, Rex Partington, a former Barter actor and stage manager, became Barter’s chief administrator from 1972 until his retirement in 1992. In October 1992, Richard Rose was named the Producing Artistic Director. During his tenure, attendance grew from 42,000 to more than 163,000 annual patrons. Significant capital improvements were also made, including renovation of the main stage (now Gilliam Stage) in 1995 and the 2006 addition of The Barter Café at Stage II (now the Smith Theatre).



Rose also created Barter's Equity Resident Acting Company, who performs year-round, as well as a company of designers and technicians. Rose retired in December of 2019 and Katy Brown, who had been at Barter since 1998 as the Director of the Barter Players and Associate Artistic Director, was named the fourth Producing Artistic Director – and is the first woman to hold the position.

Barter represents two distinct venues of live theatre: Barter Theatre's Gilliam Stage, and Barter's Smith Theatre. Gilliam Stage, with over 500 seats, features traditional theatre in a luxurious setting. Barter's Smith Theatre offers seating for 167 around a thrust stage in an intimate setting and is perfect for more adventurous productions. Barter Theatre is also home to The Barter Players, a talented ensemble of actors who produce plays for young audiences throughout the year.

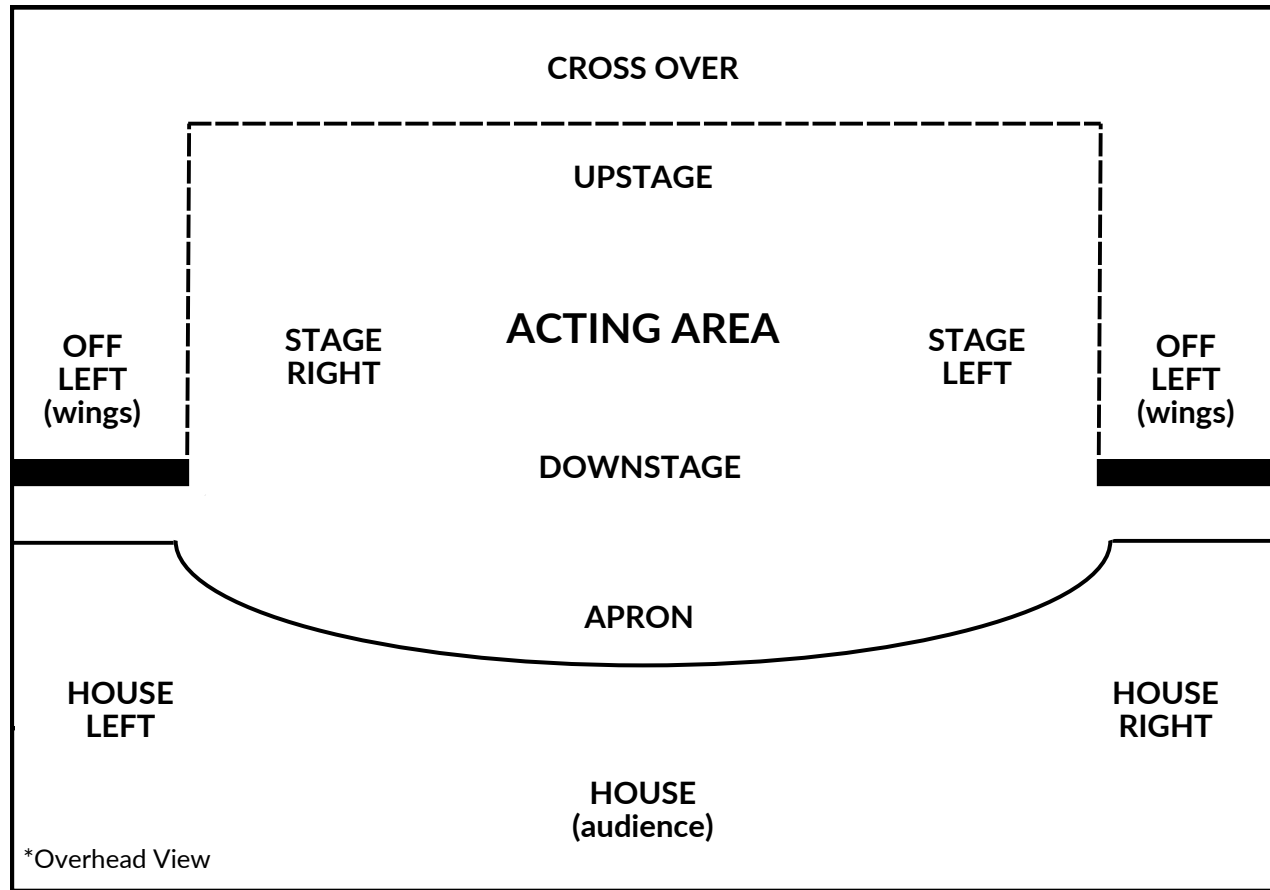
In 2020, during the global pandemic, Barter was able to continue producing by creating a new venue at the Moonlite Drive-in, where the audience sat safely distanced in their parking spots while watching the actors on stage/simulcast on the big screen. History is always in the making at Barter. Building on legends of the past, Barter Theatre looks forward to the challenge of growth in the future.



Bartering for tickets  
with Robert Porterfield



# ANATOMY OF A THEATRE



## TYPES OF STAGES

**PROSCENIUM STAGE** - The classic type of stage most commonly used in theatre. It is framed on all sides and raised higher than the audience.

**THRUST STAGE** - This type of stage is literally thrust into the audience on 3 or 4 sides and is often not raised or is raised very little. One of the most common thrust stages in the world is Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. Barter Theatre's Smith Theatre is a 3/4 thrust stage with the first row of audience seating on the same level as the actors.

**ARENA STAGE** - Also called "theatre-in-the-round" an arena stage is surrounded by the audience on all sides.

**BLACKBOX THEATRE** - A simple, flexible space that is typically used for smaller performances with minimal sets, props, and technical pieces. It is usually painted black and is draped with black curtains

**AMPHITHEATRE** - An open-air, outdoor venue made famous by ancient Romans. The stepped seating arrangement allows for perfect views from any area of the audience.

# THEATRE TERMS

## STAGE TERMS

**Apron:** The front part of the stage that is closest to the audience

**Backstage:** The area of the stage that is not visible to the audience

**Backdrop:** A large curtain or drop that hangs at the back of the stage

**Proscenium:** An arched opening in the stage that the audience looks through

**Wings:** The areas to the left and right of the stage that are not visible to the audience

## AUDIENCE TERMS

**Auditorium:** The part of the theater where the audience sits

**Balcony:** An elevated area of seating in the back of the auditorium

**House:** The area of the theater where the audience sits

**Front of House:** The part of the theater that is used by the audience. For example, a theater's lobby, box office, and refreshment stand are front-of-house areas.

## PERFORMANCE TERMS

**Act:** A division of a play, which may be further divided into scenes

**Ad-lib:** When an actor improvises a line on stage

**Aside:** A line spoken by an actor directly to the audience, but not heard by the other actors

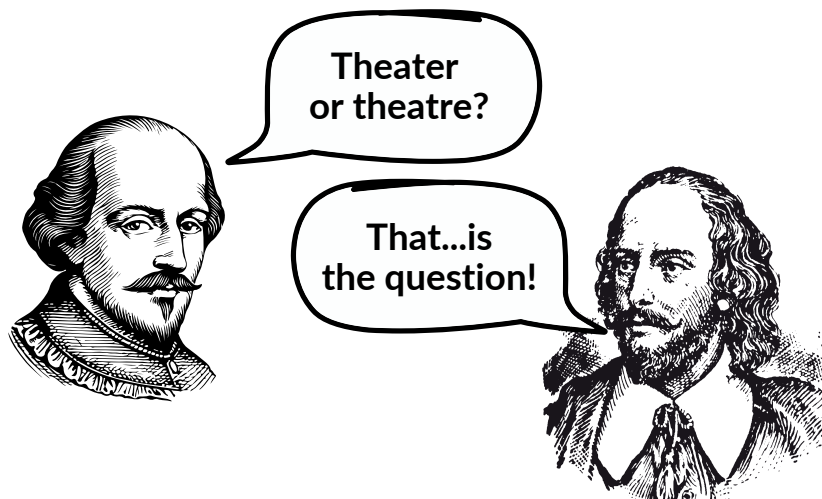
**Audition:** When actors perform for the director or casting director to get a role in a production

## OTHER TERMS

**Ensemble:** The collaboration between the artists involved in the production

**Genre:** A specific type of drama, such as a comedy, tragedy, or melodrama

**Preview:** A final dress rehearsal where the audience is invited to see the show





# MEET THE BARD OF AVON

## William Shakespeare

1564 - 1616

### Just the Facts

**Born:** April 23, 1564 in Stratford-Upon-Avon, England

**Parents:** John Shakespeare and Mary Arden

**Wife:** Anne Hathaway, married 1582

**Children:** Susanna and twins, Judith and Hamnet

**Career:** Playwright, Poet, Actor, Theatre Owner, Producer

**Legacy:** 37 Plays, 29 Sonnets, 2 narrative poems

**Nicknames:** The Bard of Avon, The Bard, The Immortal Bard, The National Poet of England

**Popular Works:** A Midsummer Night's Dream, Antony and Cleopatra, Hamlet, Henry VIII, Julius Caesar, King Lear, Macbeth, Much Ado About Nothing, Othello, Romeo and Juliet, The Comedy of Errors, The Merchant of Venice

**Death:** April 23, 1616. He is buried at Holy Trinity Church in Stratford-Upon-Avon.



# SHAKESPEARE BY THE NUMBERS

Learn fun facts while testing your Shakespearean knowledge! Match the correct number to the corresponding Shakespearean facts! Use the library or internet to find the answers!

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| • Approximate number of words Shakespeare is credited with inventing | 1623  |
| • Number of plays Shakespeare wrote                                  | 7     |
| • Number of sonnets Shakespeare wrote                                | 33    |
| • Year the Globe Theatre was built                                   | 10    |
| • Age when Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway                         | 1599  |
| • Shakespeare's age at his death in 1616                             | 1     |
| • Number of "ages of man" described in As You Like It                | 154   |
| • Estimated number of words in Shakespeare's working vocabulary      | 18    |
| • Year the First Folio was published                                 | 37    |
| • Number of times Anne Hathaway is mentioned in Shakespeare's will   | 3,000 |
| • Number of sons Shakespeare had                                     | 14    |
| • Juliet's age in Romeo and Juliet                                   | 3     |
| • Number of witches in Macbeth                                       | 1,700 |
| • Number of stab wounds Julius Caesar receives in Julius Caesar      | 2     |
| • Number of syllables per line in Shakespeare's iambic pentameter    | 52    |

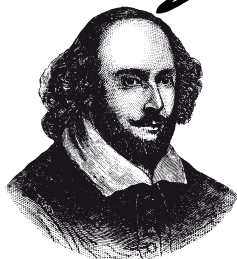
**"Words, words, words."** ~Hamlet

Shakespeare said it first

"Neither a borrower  
nor a lender be..."  
~ Hamlet



"A rose by any  
other name would  
smell as sweet."  
~ Juliet



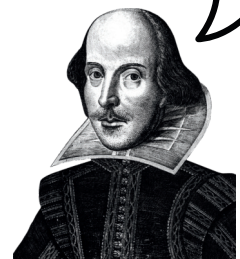
"I have not slept  
one wink."  
~ Pisanio



"Off with his head!"  
~ Richard III



"He hath eaten  
me out of house  
and home..."  
~ Mistress Quickly

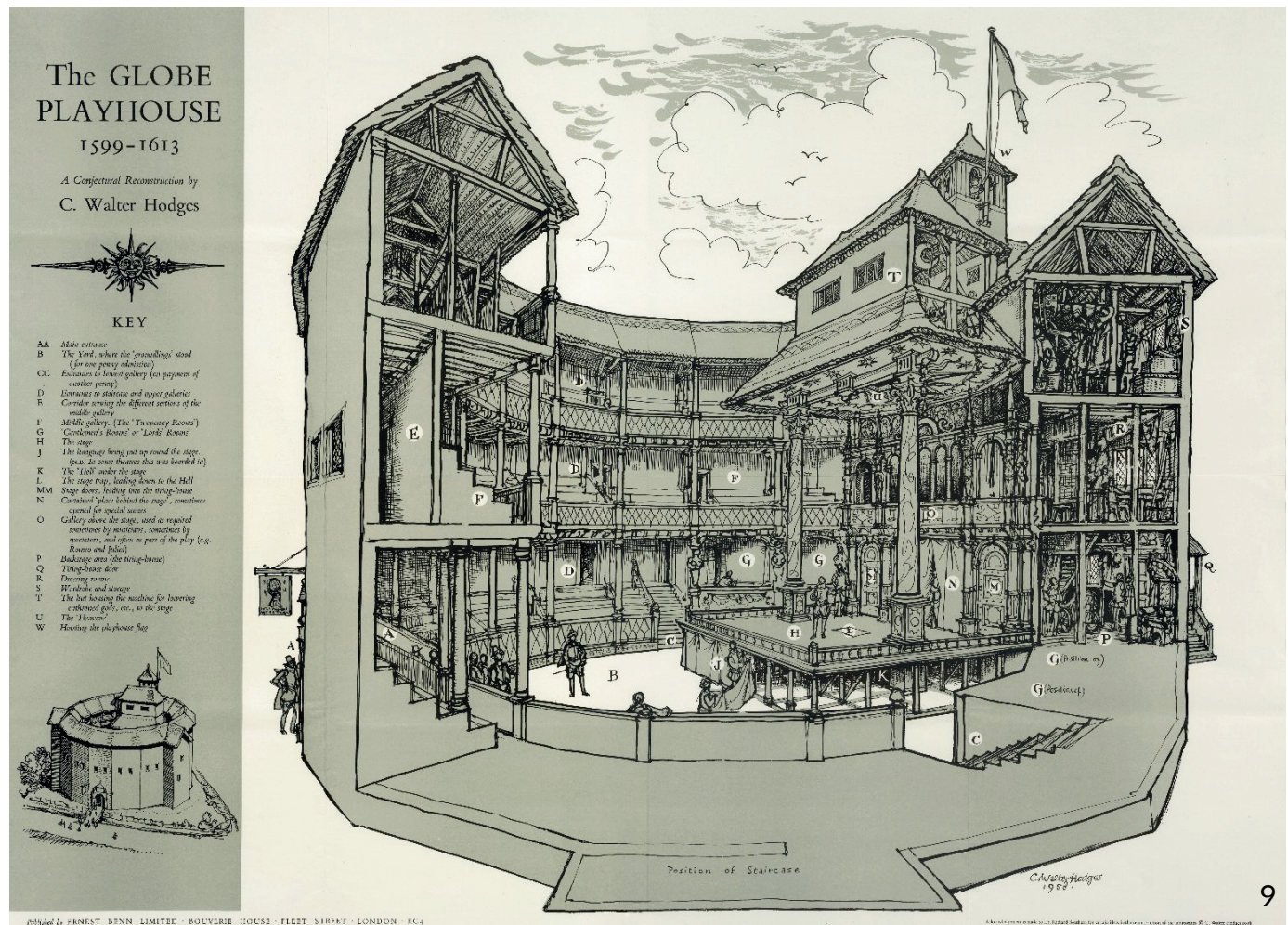




# SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE THEATRE

William Shakespeare was part of a group of actors & writers who were shareholders of a group they called "The Lord Chamberlain's Men." Together, they built The Globe Theatre in 1599. By 1613, Shakespeare was the sole owner of The Globe. It became one of the most successful theatres in England until one fateful performance of Henry VIII when a canon misfired and ignited the ceiling thatching. It took a mere two hours for The Globe to burn to the ground. The second Globe Theatre was rebuilt and reopened a year later in the same spot as the original. It would last only 30 years, until 1644 when Parliament ordered all theatres to be shut down due to the First English War. After the war, the Globe never reopened and was torn down to make room for tenements.

Over 300 years after the second Globe was razed, American actor Sam Wanamaker rebuilt the theatre, naming it Shakespeare's Globe. The design is based on the original building and sits approximately 750 feet from where William Shakespeare's famous Globe Theatre once stood.







Queen Elizabeth I  
1533 - 1603

- Elizabeth Tudor was the only surviving child of King Henry VIII and his second wife, Anne Boleyn
- In 1558 Elizabeth ascended to the throne after her sister, Mary's death
- Queen Elizabeth established the Church of England, which is still in place today
- Elizabeth was nicknamed The Virgin Queen, after her refusal to marry
- She was greatly loved by the people of England, who called her Good Queen Bess
- The U.S. state of Virginia is named for her
- Elizabeth reigned over England for 44 years, during which time England enjoyed a rich and thriving artistic culture that included music, painting, literature, and theatre
- She was particularly fond of William Shakespeare's plays and often invited him and his company, The Lord Chamberlain's Men, to perform at court

### 16TH CENTURY ENGLAND

- Hierarchical society undergoing a cultural renaissance
- Artistic and scientific advancements flourished
- The Black Plague
- Increasingly urbanized and industrial culture
- Education was primarily for the Elite
- Faced external threats from world powers such as Spain
- Monarchy & nobility at the top of the social hierarchy with strict gender roles

VS.

### 16TH CENTURY COLONIAL AMERICA

- An experimental, survival-driven environment
- American colonies lacked stability & resources
- Settlement of the Lost Colony of Roanoke by England and St. Augustine by Spain
- Interactions with the environment and indigenous peoples were central to the colonial experience
- Formal education largely non-existent, focusing primarily on survival skills
- Social hierarchy more militaristic



# ELIZABETHAN SOCIETY

## The Drama Beyond the Stage

### THE POLITICS OF FASHION

- Sumptuary laws dictated clothing based on social class, reinforcing strict hierarchy.
- Nobility wore luxurious fabrics while lower classes were restricted to wool & linen
- Queen Elizabeth I used fashion as a symbol of power and authority.
- The rising merchant class challenged social boundaries by dressing above their rank, creating tensions over status.



**Discussion:** In what ways did Queen Elizabeth I use fashion as a tool of power & influence?

### DISEASE, DIRT, AND DEATH

- **Overcrowded & Unsanitary:** Thames & streets were polluted & filled with waste
- **The Bubonic Plague:** Spread by fleas on rats
- **Quarantine:** Infected homes were marked with red crosses, theaters closed, mass cullings of stray animals.
- **Polluted Water:** People drank from the contaminated Thames, worsening illness.
- **Plague Masks:** Filled with herbs, offered no real protection.



**Discussion:** How does the Elizabethan approach to disease prevention compare to modern public health measures?

### CRIME & PUNISHMENT

Justice was harsh, with penalties varying by social class.

#### Common Crimes & Punishments

- Theft: Whipping, branding, or stocks
- Treason: Hanging, drawing & quartering
- Witchcraft & Heresy: Burning at the stake or hanging

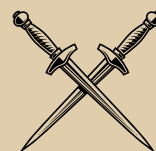
**The Tower of London** - Held political prisoners, many facing torture or execution.

#### Torture Devices

- The Rack: Stretched & dislocated body
- Iron Maiden: Spiked coffin (use in England debated)
- Scavenger's Daughter: Crushed the body

**Public Executions** – Beheadings for nobility, gruesome deaths for commoners

**Discussion:** How does the Elizabethan justice system compare to modern legal systems? Are there any remnants of these harsh punishments in today's world?



# ELIZABETHAN THEATRE

Elizabethan theatre flourished during the reign of **Queen Elizabeth I** (1558–1603) and beyond, marking a golden age of English drama with renowned playwrights such as **William Shakespeare**, **Christopher Marlowe**, and **Ben Jonson**. Theaters like **The Globe** and **The Rose** were open-air structures with a **thrust stage**, allowing audiences to surround the performers on three sides. These theatres attracted a diverse crowd, from wealthy patrons seated in the galleries to commoners, known as "**groundlings**," who stood in the pit. Minimal scenery and props were used, relying instead on elaborate costumes and poetic language to captivate audiences. Acting troupes, such as **The Lord Chamberlain's Men**, performed a **repertory** of plays featuring all-male casts, as women were not permitted to act on stage. Popular genres included **tragedy**, **comedy**, and **history** plays, often written in **blank verse** and rich in **rhetorical devices**, **soliloquies**, and **wordplay**.

An important aspect of Elizabethan theatre was the **green show**, a pre-performance entertainment held outside the theatre to attract and engage audiences before the main production began. These performances featured music, dancing, short comedic skits, and even juggling or acrobatics, creating a festive atmosphere and drawing in crowds. Green shows served as a way to entertain those who arrived early, introduce themes of the upcoming play, and provide opportunities for less experienced actors or musicians to showcase their talents. Today, many Shakespeare festivals continue this tradition, keeping the spirit of early theater alive.

Elizabethan drama was heavily influenced by **Renaissance** ideas, classical literature, and themes of **power**, **ambition**, and **fate**. The audience's lively engagement made theatre an immersive social event, where actors had to adapt to cheers and jeers alike. Despite the theatre's popularity, it faced challenges such as **Puritan opposition**, **plague**-related closures, and **censorship** by the **Master of the Revels**, who ensured plays aligned with the crown's interests.

Elizabethan playwrights showcased complex characters and universal themes that continue to resonate today. Their works explored the human condition in ways that transcended social class, and their influence remains deeply embedded in modern theater. The legacy of Elizabethan theatre endures, as its timeless storytelling, poetic beauty, and dramatic structure continue to inspire audiences and playwrights across the world.

# HAMLET

by William Shakespeare

## CAST

### MAIN CHARACTERS

**Hamlet** – Son of the late king, nephew of the present king, Claudius

**Ghost** – The Ghost of Hamlet's father

**Claudius** – King of Denmark, Hamlet's uncle, brother to the former king

**Gertrude** – Queen of Denmark, Hamlet's mother

**Polonius** – Chief Counsellor to the king

**Ophelia** – Polonius's Daughter

**Fortinbras** – Prince of Norway

**Horatio** – friend of Hamlet

**Laertes** – Polonius's son

### OTHER CHARACTERS

Voltemand

Cornelius

Rosencrantz

Guildenstern

Osric

Marcellus

Bernardo

Francisco

Reynaldo

Gravediggers

Players





## SYNOPSIS

On a dark and ominous night in Elsinore Castle, Denmark, Prince Hamlet encounters a chilling apparition, the ghost of his recently deceased father, the former King of Denmark. The ghost reveals a shocking truth: he did not die of natural causes, as the court was led to believe, but was instead murdered in cold blood by his own brother, Claudius. Now, Claudius sits upon the throne of Denmark, having not only usurped the crown but also hastily married Hamlet's mother, Queen Gertrude.

Haunted by this revelation and burdened by a duty to seek justice, Hamlet finds himself thrust into a world of deception, intrigue, and moral uncertainty. Torn between action and hesitation, he wrestles with the weight of avenging his father's untimely death while navigating the treacherous political landscape of the Danish court. As he contemplates his next move, Hamlet's feigned madness begins to blur the line between reality and illusion, sowing confusion and paranoia among those around him.

Throughout the play, Hamlet's pursuit of truth leads him to question the very nature of life, death, and the human condition. His philosophical musings and introspective soliloquies, including the famous "To be, or not to be" speech, explore themes of existence, mortality, and the complexity of revenge.

Meanwhile, Claudius, wary of Hamlet's increasingly erratic behavior, schemes to eliminate him, fearing exposure of his heinous crime. The tension escalates as Hamlet's relationships with those closest to him - his mother Gertrude, his love interest Ophelia, and his loyal friend Horatio - are tested by the mounting turmoil.

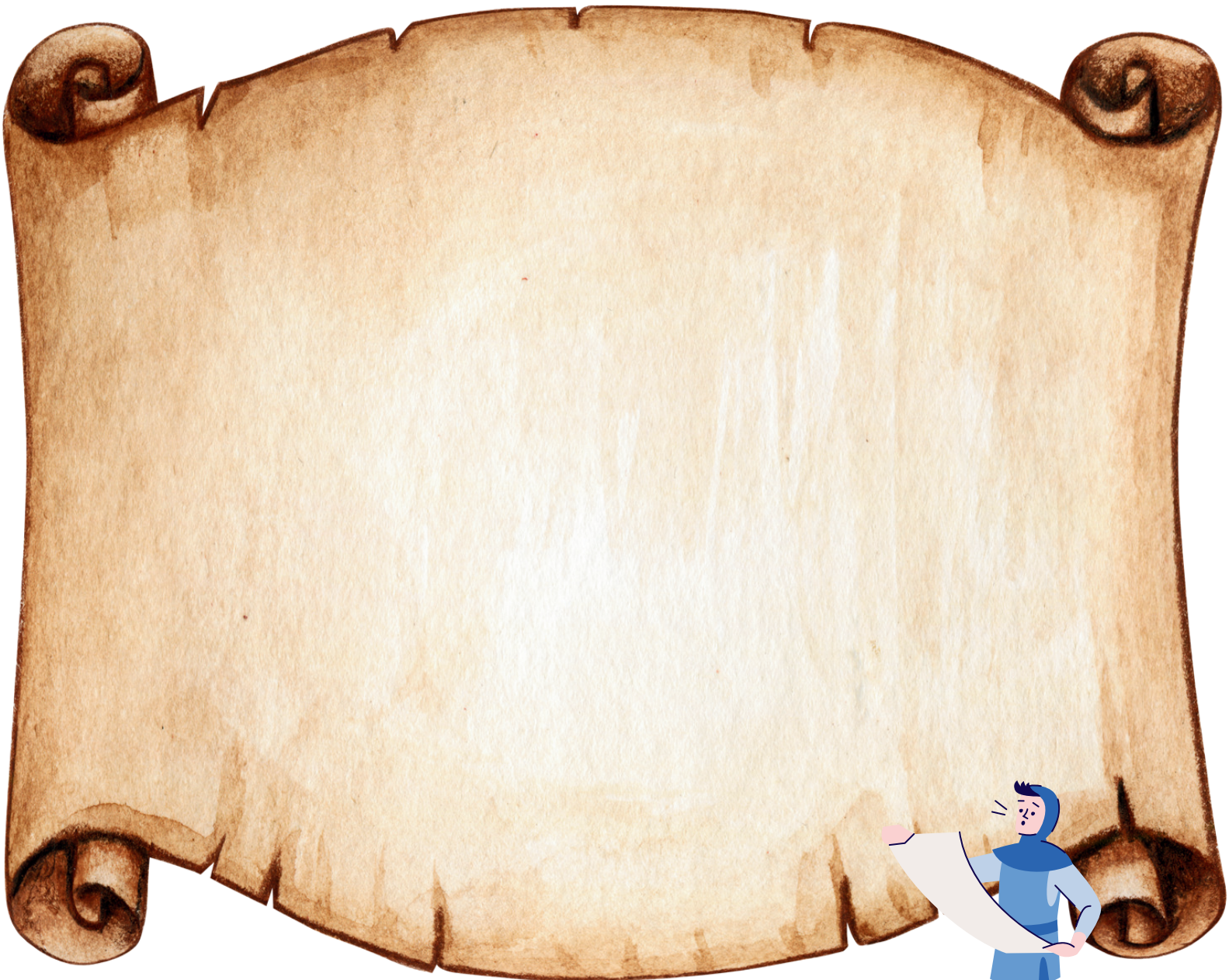
As the plot unfolds, betrayal, madness, and tragic consequences ensue, leading to a climactic duel that will determine the fate of the Danish crown. Will Hamlet fulfill his vow and avenge his father's murder, or will his indecision prove to be his downfall?

Shakespeare's Hamlet is a timeless tragedy that delves into themes of revenge, loyalty, power, and the frailty of the human psyche, making it one of the most profound and enduring works of literature in the Western canon.



## HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

Unroll the scroll and write an urgent cry,  
Proclaim a scene from Hamlet as you fly  
Through Denmark's streets, with news both grim and dire.  
Report the facts, the tale to raise desire.  
Include the plot, the terms from Hamlet's play,  
And use the words you'd hear the crier say.  
Remember, too, a title must be bold,  
To capture all who seek this tale of old.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does Hamlet's hesitation to act on his father's murder reveal his inner turmoil and philosophical nature?
2. What does the play suggest about the nature of corruption and its influence on the state of Denmark?
3. What is the significance of the play-within-a-play in Act 3, and what does it reveal about Hamlet's character and his method of confronting the truth?
4. How does Ophelia's descent into madness reflect the treatment of women and societal expectations in the play?
5. How does the theme of revenge intersect with the theme of justice in Hamlet? Does the play present a clear moral stance on revenge?
6. What does the motif of appearance vs. reality manifest in the play, and which characters exemplify this theme most clearly?



# IN THE WORDS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

In this word search, with radiance and might,  
Find words that dwindle, savage in their flight.  
From cold-blooded plots to zany schemes that roam,  
Seek out the hidden moonbeam, and bring them home.  
Beware the critic, let neglect not stay,  
And mark the torture that may come your way.

Q L K Q O M R K B N T P T A L U F J Y P  
U A O N E E E E M E C A O S A M I N F V  
A M V N G N D C A T E G R S E B A M A S  
K M E G E A X N J R L E T A R Z Y L S M  
S R A C Z L A A E A G A U S N H U F H T  
U W S Z I V Y I S E E N R S U F R Y I L  
S B L R E T U D T H N T E I T U M H O E  
O E T S X M I A I S X R M N G M A Z N F  
D Y A I W X E R C I P Y E A Y S M Z A T  
D J A T G X Z N C D H V L T E M W F B R  
S U O R E N E G T C E Z Z I N B O Y L A  
L E E C A L P H T R I B J O Q Z N O E E  
I E Y E B A L L K L I U Q N A R T O L H  
L A C K L U S T E R O U T B R E A K O G  
Z E Y R E Z I H P R O M A T E M S G D M

Amazement  
Assassination  
Bedazzled  
Birthplace  
Critic  
Dishearten  
Eventful

Eyeball  
Fashionable  
Frugal  
Generous  
Gloomy  
Heartfelt  
Lackluster

Lonely  
Majestic  
Metamorphize  
Moonbeam  
Neglect  
Obscene  
Outbreak

Pageantry  
Radiance  
Swagger  
Torture  
Tranquil  
Unreal  
Zany





Hark, knaves and nobles, fools and fair!  
Which Hamlet soul dost thou declare?  
A prince? A knave? A witless sot?  
Come, take this test and learn thy lot!

**1. How do you handle conflict?**

- A) Overthink every possible outcome before acting
- B) Manipulate the situation to my advantage
- C) Try to keep the peace between everyone
- D) Let my emotions control me
- E) Follow orders without question

**2. What is your biggest flaw?**

- A) I hesitate too much and second-guess myself
- B) I can be ruthless when pursuing my goals
- C) I struggle to take a firm stance
- D) I let my feelings completely take over
- E) I do what I'm told, even when I shouldn't

**3. How do you feel about revenge?**

- A) I know I should act, but I hesitate
- B) I will do what's necessary to maintain power
- C) I prefer to stay out of conflicts
- D) I act on impulse, even if it destroys me
- E) I carry out orders, even if I don't fully understand them

**4. What role do you play in your friend group?**

- A) The deep thinker who analyzes everything
- B) The leader who makes the tough decisions
- C) The loyal friend who keeps things balanced
- D) The emotional one who wears my heart on my sleeve
- E) The quiet one who goes along with what others say

**5. If you were royalty, how would you rule?**

- A) With deep philosophical debates about morality
- B) With absolute power and control
- C) With fairness and diplomacy
- D) With passion and emotional speeches
- E) I'd prefer not to rule at all

**6. How do you react when someone betrays you?**

- A) I obsess over it and seek answers
- B) I strike first before they can do more damage
- C) I try to keep the peace and avoid conflict
- D) I take it personally and let it consume me
- E) I accept it as my duty and move on

**7. What's your greatest strength?**

- A) Intelligence and deep thought
- B) Leadership and strategy
- C) Diplomacy and loyalty
- D) Passion and sincerity
- E) Obedience and duty

**8. How do you feel about love?**

- A) It's complicated and painful
- B) It's useful when it benefits me
- C) It's something to be handled carefully
- D) It's everything—I follow my heart completely
- E) I don't really think about it much

**9. How do you handle stress?**

- A) Overthink and second-guess everything
- B) Take control and remove obstacles
- C) Try to find a middle ground
- D) Let my emotions take over
- E) Wait for instructions from someone else

**10. What kind of career would you thrive in?**

- A) Philosopher or writer
- B) Politician or CEO
- C) Diplomat or mediator
- D) Artist or performer
- E) Soldier or assistant

**11. What's your biggest fear?**

- A) Making the wrong decision
- B) Losing control
- C) Losing the trust of others
- D) Being abandoned
- E) Failing to follow orders

**12. If someone wronged you, how would you react?**

- A) Struggle to decide whether to act
- B) Manipulate the situation to turn it in my favor
- C) Try to resolve it peacefully
- D) React passionately and possibly self-destruct
- E) Accept it as my duty

**THE UNMASKING OF THY FATE**

**If A's be most**, then Hamlet thou dost seem,  
A thinker lost within a restless dream

**If B's dost rule**, then Claudius thou art,  
A cunning soul with power in thy heart

**If C's prevail**, then Horatio thou be,  
Most true of friends, both wise and fair to see

**If D's dost guide**, Ophelia thou shalt claim,  
A heart too soft, now lost in love and shame

**If E's take hold**, then Guildenstern or Rose,  
A pawn of fate, who goes where duty goes

**ACT IT OUT!**

Cast yourselves as the character in *Hamlet* that you most identify with and read the final scene aloud. Use your best Shakespearean voices to perform Act V, Scene II for your teacher!

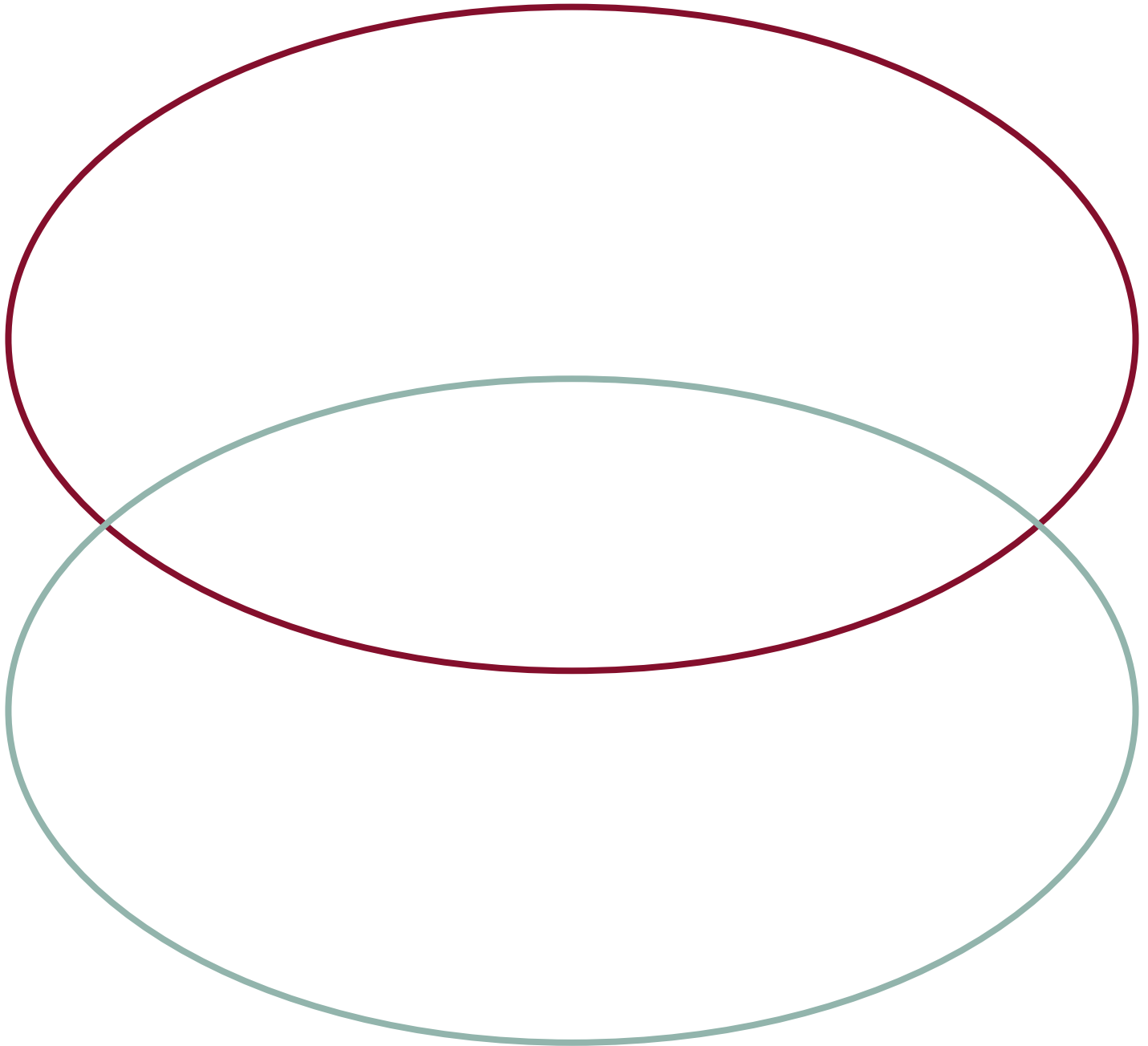




## CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Compare and contrast two characters from *Hamlet*. What do they have in common? How are they different? What are their virtues and faults? What do you admire or dislike about each of these characters? Discuss your results with the class.

Character 1: \_\_\_\_\_

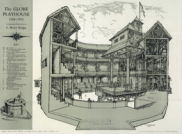


Character 2: \_\_\_\_\_

## Image Citations



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