

Hamlet Key Facts

Writer: William Shakespeare | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Key Facts

- **Full Title:** *The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark*
- **Playwright:** William Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- **When Written:** Likely between 1599 and 1602
- **Where Written:** Stratford-upon-Avon or London, England
- **When Published:** First Quarto in 1603; Second Quarto in 1604; First Folio in 1623
- **Literary Period:** Renaissance
- **Genre:** Tragic Play; Revenge Play
- **Setting:** Elsinore Castle, Denmark, during the late Middle Ages
- **Antagonist:** Claudius
- **Perspective and Narrator:** "*Hamlet*" is written in an objective third-person point of view. To give audiences some insight into the characters' inner thoughts, Shakespeare uses short speeches (asides) and longer speeches (soliloquies) in which characters speak their thoughts aloud.
- **Structure:** The play is divided into 5 acts.