



Hamlet

William Shakespeare

Hamlet

- Genre- revenge tragedy
- Setting- Elsinore, Denmark
- Themes- madness, revenge, moral corruption, appearance vs. reality
- Motifs (recurring images)- decay, ears & hearing, actors & acting



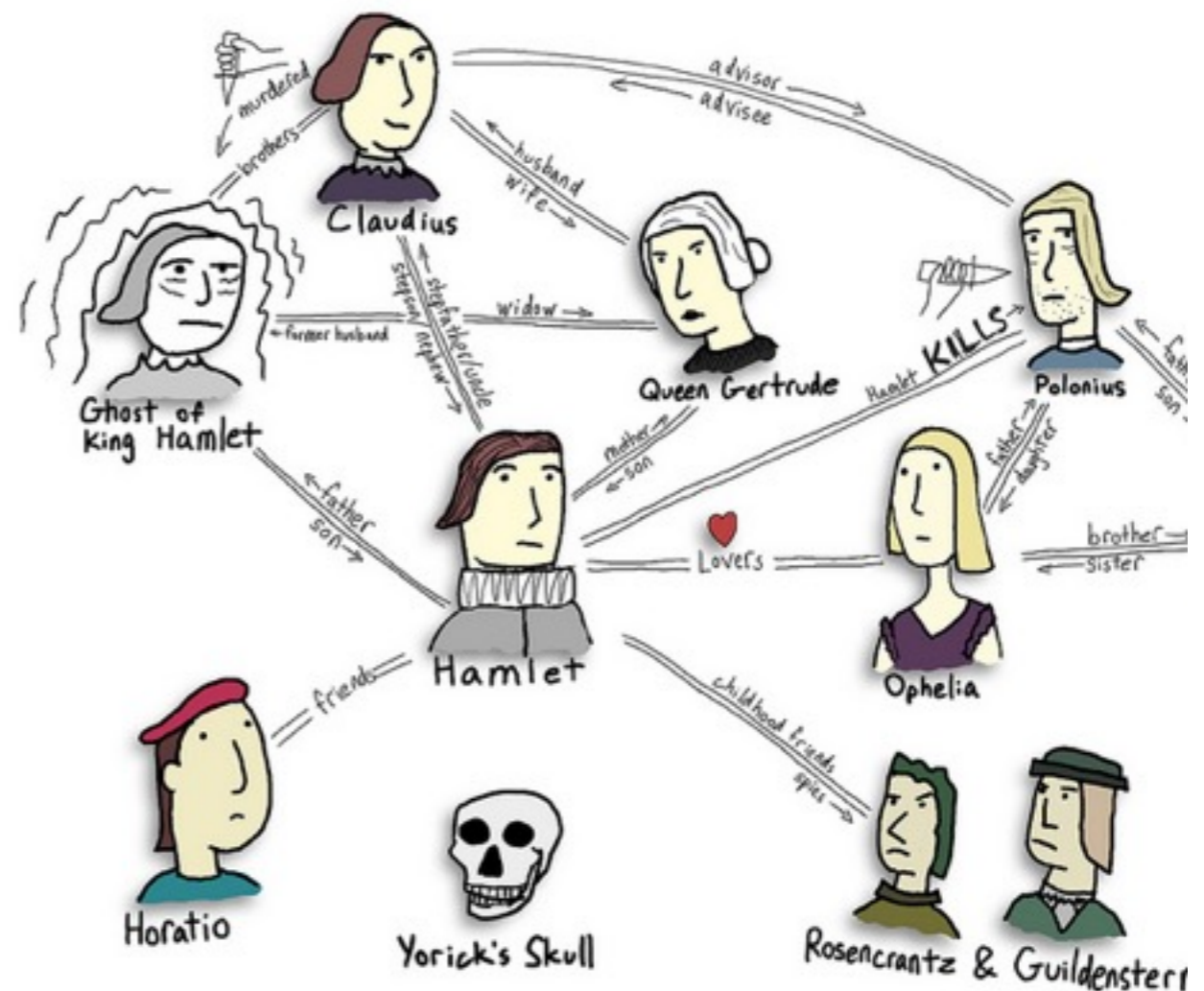
Revenge Tragedy

- A style of drama in which the basic plot is a quest for vengeance for a real or imagined injury



Hamlet (cont)

- Date Written- sometime between 1599-1601
- First Performed- sometime between 1601-1602 at The Globe Theatre by Lord Chamberlain's Men
- Source Material- Saxo Grammaticus's *History of the Danes* (1200); Francois de Belleforest's *Histoires Tragiques* (1570)



Cultural Context and Customs

- During this time period, marriages were arranged. A divorced or unmarried woman was considered a disgrace to her family and had two options: the nunnery or the brothel. Unmarried women were not permitted to be in the presence of men unaccompanied.



Cultural Context and Customs

- One must have permission from the King in order to leave the palace.
- Speaking against a king was considered treason, and was punishable by death.
- Kings were often sent away during their youth to other countries to receive an education.
- Kings often hired travelling acting troupes to entertain at parties.

