

## Hamlet- Major Characters

Character	Identity
<b>The Ghost</b>	dead King of Denmark, Hamlet's father; calls upon Hamlet to avenge him
<b>Hamlet</b>	the Prince of Denmark, full of bitterness and hatred, seeks to avenge his father's death
<b>Queen Gertrude</b>	Hamlet's mother- a shallow, weak woman who cares more about status than what's right
<b>King Claudius</b>	Hamlet's uncle who marries Gertrude, the current king of Denmark; the play's villain
<b>Ophelia</b>	Hamlet's love interest; a sweet and innocent young woman dependent on men to tell her how to behave
<b>Laertes</b>	Ophelia's brother; passionate and quick to action; Hamlet's foil
<b>Polonius</b>	Pompous, conniving man; father to Ophelia and Laertes
<b>Horatio</b>	Hamlet's closest friend, a loyal and helpful man
<b>Rosencrantz &amp; Guildenstern</b>	Fellow classmates of Hamlet's; sent by the king and queen to find out what's wrong with Hamlet