

HIGH SCHOOL | BLUE VALLEY DISTRICT NOVEL RATIONALE

***Hamlet* by William Shakespeare**

English Language Arts, 12th Grade

WHAT'S THE STORY?

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.

CONNECTIONS TO CURRICULUM*

The following are some, but not all, of the connections to curriculum for this novel.

- **Unit 3: Personal Responsibility**
 - Essential Question: "How does personal responsibility affect not only the individual but also the world as a whole?"
- **Unit 4: Universal Human Experience**
 - Essential Question: "How can reading reveal universal truths about the human experience?"

KEY STANDARDS ADDRESSED

- Read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems. RL.12.13
- Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text. RL.12.2
- Analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of the structure an author uses in his or her exposition or argument, including whether the structure makes points clear, convincing, and engaging. RL.12.5
- Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain. RL.12.1
- Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grades 11–12 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies. RL.12.11
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. RL.12.12