

# Year 9 'Romeo and Juliet' Knowledge Organiser



## Important information

**Plot:** The ghost of the King of Denmark tells his son, Hamlet to avenge his murder by killing the new king, Hamlet's uncle. Hamlet feigns madness, contemplates life and death, and seeks revenge. His uncle, fearing for his life, also devises plots to kill Hamlet. The play ends with a duel, during which the King, Queen, Hamlet's opponent and Hamlet himself are all killed. .

**Themes:** Family, friendship, madness and revenge.

**Setting:** Elsinore Castle, Denmark

## Key Characters

<b>Hamlet</b>	Main character, is melancholy, bitter, and cynical, full of hatred for his uncle and mother. Hamlet is often indecisive and hesitant, but at other times prone to rash and impulsive acts.
<b>Ghost of King Hamlet</b>	The ghost of Hamlet's deceased father, who claims to have been murdered by Claudius, Hamlet speculates that the ghost might be a devil sent to deceive him and tempt him into murder.
<b>King Claudius</b>	The villain of the play, Claudius is a calculating, ambitious politician, driven by his sexual appetites.

## Key vocabulary

Madness

Supernatural

Conflict

Friendship

Patriarchy



Society

Revenge

Traditions

Tragedy

Honour



Zoom in -  
single word  
analysis



Zoom out -  
whole  
phrase

## Context

William Shakespeare was born in 1564 and Hamlet was written towards the end of Queen Elizabeth's rule when the English people were nervous about succession. Queen Elizabeth's long reign represented a time of peace after lengthy turmoil.

## Key terminology

<b>Allusions</b>	To call something to mind without mentioning it explicitly
<b>Foreshadowing</b>	A warning or indication of (a future event)
<b>Metaphors</b>	A comparison stating something is another thing that is not literally true.

## Key quotations

'To be, or not to be: that is the question'.

'O that this too too solid flesh would melt'.

'Get thee to a nunnery!'

'The lady doth protest too much, methinks'.

'Something is rotten in the state of Denmark'.

'There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, / Than are dreamt of in your philosophy.'

'Alas, poor Yorick! I knew him, Horatio.'