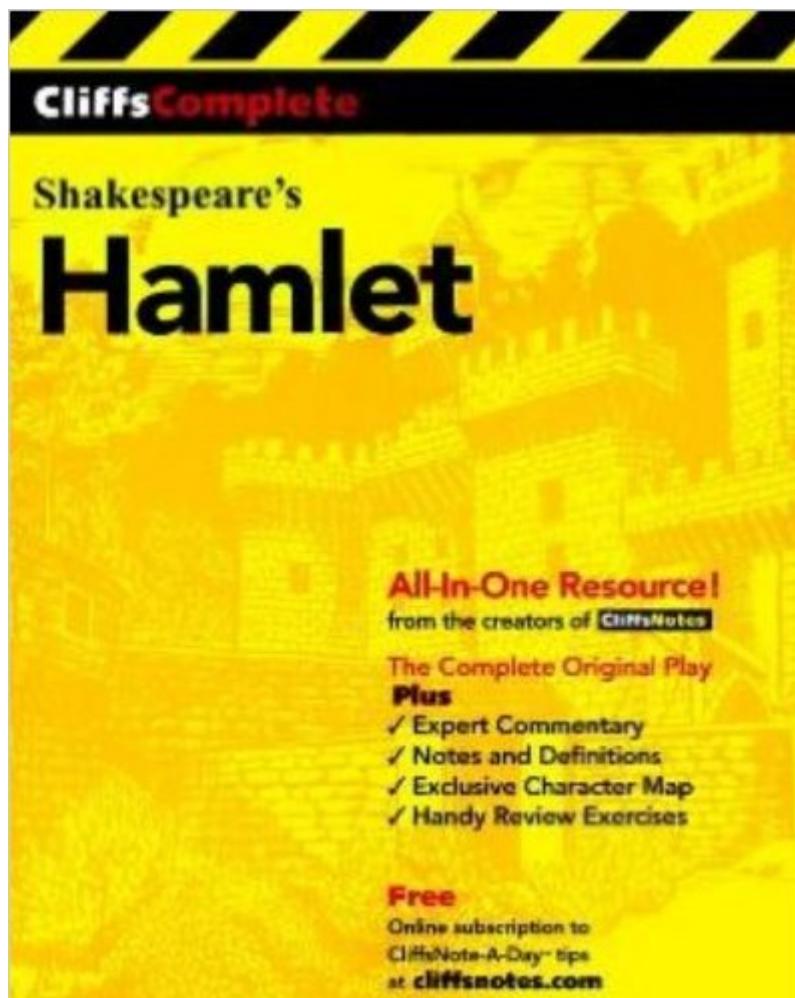


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# CliffsComplete Shakespeare's Hamlet



## Synopsis

In the CliffsComplete guides, the novel's complete text and a glossary appear side-by-side with coordinating numbered lines to help you understand unusual words and phrasing. You'll also find all the commentary and resources of a standard CliffsNotes for Literature. CliffsComplete Hamlet covers details of the most widely produced and critiqued Shakespearean play. Written in poignant language, Hamlet contains all the elements necessary for a good tragedy, including a brave and daring hero who suffers a fatal flaw. Discover what happens to the complicated cast of characters — and save valuable studying time — all at once. Enhance your reading of Hamlet with these additional features:

- A summary and insightful commentary for each chapter
- Bibliography and historical background on the author, William Shakespeare
- A look at Early Modern England historical, intellectual, religious, and social context
- Insight into the play's classical elements and language
- A character map that graphically illustrates the relationships among the characters
- Review questions, a quiz, discussion guide, and activity ideas
- A Resource Center full of books, articles, films, and Web sites
- Streamline your literature study with all-in-one help from CliffsComplete guides!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is the essential resource for anyone who wants to understand Hamlet. I eagerly recommend it to students from 8th grade to master's level, and to anyone who plans to teach this play. This text contains the complete original play, expert commentary, and very useful additional resources. Dr. Mategrano has done a thorough job of explaining the play, providing historical,

theatrical, social, and religious background information. Explanations are provided to such crucial questions as why Hamlet, the dead king's only son, did not automatically become the reigning monarch. I found the section on the status of women to be especially insightful into the behavior of Gertrude and Ophelia. Anyone who teaches, studies or attends a performance of Hamlet will benefit greatly from having read this text.

This book is a great way to make it through Hamlet and actually understand it! The sidenotes really help with the vocab, and at the end of each chapter is a commentary that pieces everything together so it totally makes sense.

I teach senior English and recommend this version for my honors classes as well as my AP classes. It contains the full text plus a fair amount of supplemental material and background info. All nicely in a book with plenty of white space for students to write their own notes.

This book is a fantastic resource for anyone wanting to read the actual text of Shakespeare's Hamlet, including those who won't typically venture into the realm of Shakespeare. The book contains the actual text of the play, as well as an extensive introduction that discusses the history of Shakespeare and his times and brief history of Hamlet itself. Each scene starts with a brief summary of its contents, which keys the reader into what they are about to read, and the thought-provoking analysis at the end of each scene helps the reader digest and more fully understand what they just read. The real strength of this book, however, is the translation of the less common phrases on the same page as the text. The glossary allows the reader to quickly understand more obscure phrases in the context of the play without losing their place, pace, or rhythm. The glossary makes this version of Hamlet shine and it makes the play accessible to all readers. I found that I was learning phrases and getting more used to Shakespeare's language as the play progressed, so I didn't need to refer to the glossary as often near the end of the play. Finally, although relatively simple, the index is a huge resource. I read the play for a class, and the index made flipping to a particular scene much easier. Looking up "Laertes, Apology from Hamlet" (or "Hamlet, Apology to Laertes") is far easier than trying to recall the act, scene, and line of a particular event. Whether for education or pleasure, this is an excellent resource and a huge help for anyone who wants to read and understand Hamlet. Highly recommended.

This has really helped me have the understanding I've needed to teach a class on Shakespeare.

The summaries have been awesome to help the teens understand what is happening and why it is. It's been a great tool to get the teens thinking and improve our discussions.

Since Hamlet is outdated in dialogue the side notes in the book helped make it feel less awkward to read. I would have had to look up the story online more if the novel didn't break the story bit by bit and explain the complex details more clearly.

service was incredibly fast. this concept that was not around when I was in High school of combining the text with the notes etc that come in this book are just great. the students in class will surely get a LOT more out of class discussions and reading with all this info in ONE book!

I purchased this Cliffs Complete as a resource for my AP English Literature and Composition class. The translations in the margins were accurate and helpful, as were the commentaries before and after each scene. While the book is not as in-depth as a college textbook, its purpose is to be used as a study guide and acts exactly as such. I would recommend this book to those who need a few pointers in understanding one of Shakespeare's most famous plays.

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