

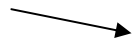
A summary of the story

Act 1 Scene 1



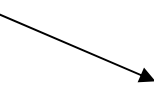
Horatio, Marcellus and Barnado see the ghost of Hamlet's father and agree to tell Hamlet.

Act 1 Scene 2



Hamlet's first soliloquy:

Act 1 Scene 3

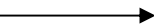


Laertes warns Ophelia against Hamlet's love, saying Hamlet is not free to marry who he wants but must choose a wife who befits his station.
Polonius gives Laertes some fatherly advice about his conduct.
Polonius warns Ophelia not to see Hamlet any more.

Act 1 Scene 4



Act 1 Scene 5



Hamlet's second soliloquy:

Act 2 Scene 1

Polonius sends Reynaldo on a mission to spy on Laertes in France and report back on his conduct. Ophelia tells her father that she is frightened by Hamlet. He appeared before her with his clothes all dishevelled and his behaviour was strange. Polonius decides to tell Claudius.

Act 2 Scene 2

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern arrive, having been summoned by Claudius to find out the cause of Hamlet's strange behaviour. Voltmand and Cornelius return from Norway to report that the king of Norway has prevented Fortinbras from attacking Denmark and is instead sending him to attack Poland. Polonius gives an explanation of Hamlet's madness to Claudius and Gertrude: Ophelia's rejection of his love.

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern admit to Hamlet that they were summoned by Claudius.

Hamlet welcomes the players (actors). He asks the actors to perform a play the next night; he will provide a speech he has written to include in the performance.

Hamlet's third soliloquy: