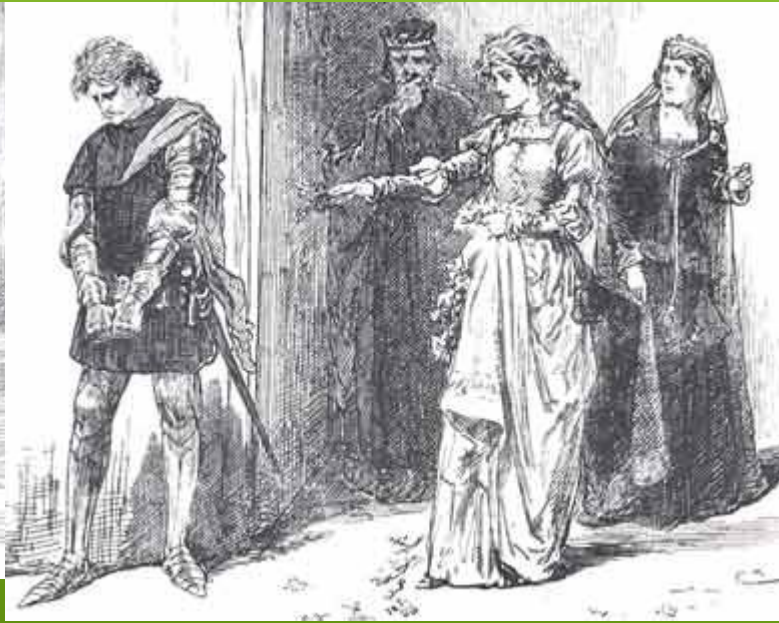


# HAMLET

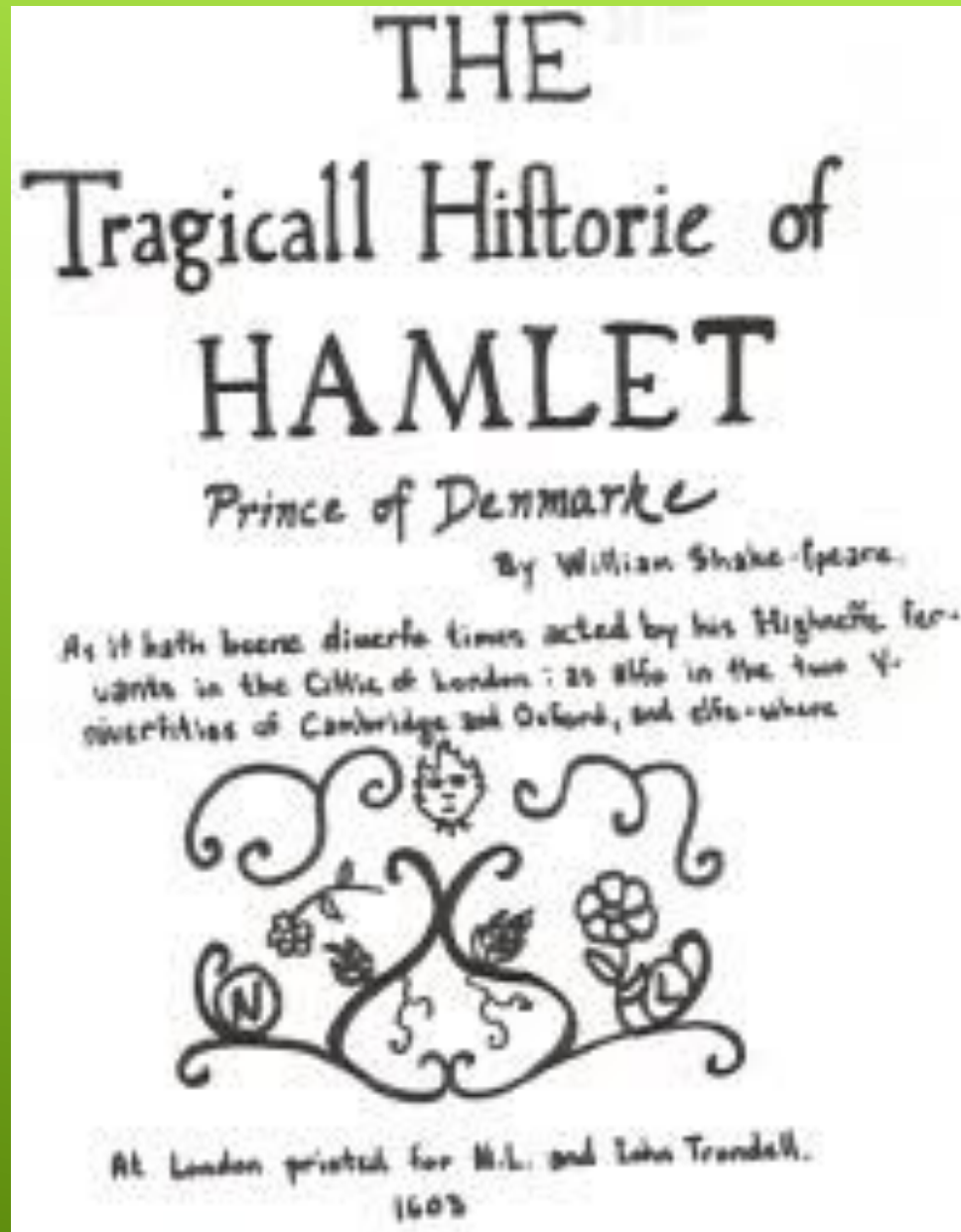


- ▶ ***The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark***, often shortened to ***Hamlet*** (/ˈhæmlɪt/), is a tragedy written by William Shakespeare at an uncertain date between 1599 and 1602.
- ▶ *Hamlet* is Shakespeare's longest play and among the most powerful and influential tragedies in English literature, with a story capable of "seemingly endless retelling and adaptation by others."



# TEXTS

▶ Early editors of Shakespeare's works, beginning with Nicholas Rowe (1709) and Lewis Theobald (1733), combined material from the two earliest sources of *Hamlet* available at the time, Q2 and F1. Each text contains material that the other lacks, with many minor differences in wording: scarcely 200 lines are identical in the two. Editors have combined them in an effort to create one "inclusive" text that reflects an imagined "ideal" of Shakespeare's original.



# LANGUAGE

► Compared with language in a modern newspaper, magazine or popular novel, Shakespeare's language can strike contemporary readers as complex, elaborate and at times difficult to understand. Remarkably, it still works well enough in the theatre: audiences at the reconstruction of 'Shakespeare's Globe' in London, many of whom have never been to the theatre before, let alone to a play by Shakespeare, seem to have little difficulty grasping the play's action.



## The Tragicall Historie of HAMLET Prince of Denmarke.

*Enter two Centinels.*

1. **S**Tand: who is that?
2. **S**T is I.
1. O you come most carefully vpon your watch,
2. And if you meete *Marcellus* and *Horatio*,  
The partners of my watch, bid them make hafte.
1. I will: See who goes there.

*Enter Horatio and Marcellus.*

- Hor.* Friends to this ground.  
*Mar.* And leegemen to the Dane,  
O farewell honest souldier, who hath releued you?
1. *Barnardo* hath my place, giue you good night.
- Mar.* Holla, *Barnardo*.
2. Say, is *Horatio* there?
- Hor.* A peece of him.
2. Welcome *Horatio*, welcome good *Marcellus*.
- Mar.* What hath this thing appear'd againe to night.
2. I haue seene nothing.
- Mar.* *Horatio* sayes tis but our fantasie,  
And wil not let beliefe take hold of him,  
Touching this dreaded fight twice seene by vs,

B

There-

▶ *Hamlet* continues to be staged regularly, with actors such as Simon Russell Beale, David Tennant, Angela Winkler, Samuel West, Christopher Eccleston, and Christian Camargo, performing the lead role.

▶ In May 2009, *Hamlet* opened with Jude Law in the title role at the Donmar Warehouse West End season at Wyndham's Theatre. The production officially opened on 3 June and ran through 22 August 2009.



THANKS FOR  
YOUR  
ATTENTION

