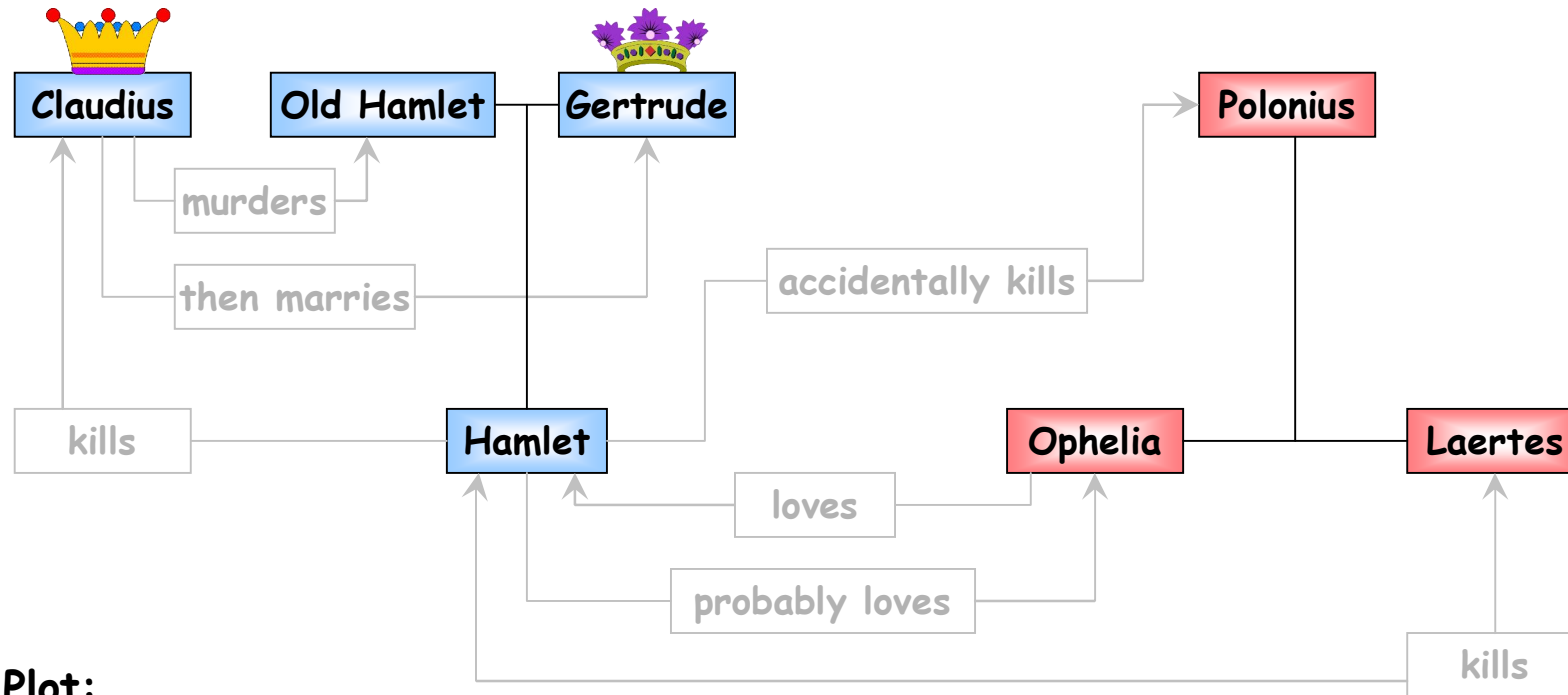


The Characters



The Plot:

- Right at the start of the play Hamlet meets his father's ghost.
- The ghost tells Hamlet that he didn't die, he was actually murdered by his brother, Claudius.
- Hamlet spends the majority of the play struggling with his conscience about whether or not he should 'do his duty' and avenge his father's death by killing Claudius.
- Hamlet, possibly driven slightly mad by this struggle with his conscience, breaks off his romance with Ophelia. This sends her mad and she ends up drowning in a stream. Hamlet also accidentally kills her father.
- These two deaths enrage Laertes who, also seeking revenge, decides to kill Hamlet.
- Claudius and Laertes plot together to kill Hamlet in a fencing match by arming Laertes with a poison tipped sword.
- In the fencing match both Claudius, Laertes and Hamlet are stabbed with the poisoned sword and Gertrude drinks a poisoned drink that was meant to be given to Hamlet if he escaped from Laertes'.
- By the end of the play all of the major characters are dead, four of them die within 100 lines of the end.