Hamlet: A Simple Summary

Prince Hamlet of Denmark comes home after his father, the king, dies. He is shocked to see his mother, Queen Gertrude, quickly marry his uncle Claudius, who has now taken the throne.

One night, Hamlet sees the ghost of his father. The ghost says Claudius murdered him by pouring poison in his ear while he slept. The ghost asks Hamlet to take revenge. Hamlet is torn: he wants justice, but killing his uncle feels like a terrible sin.

# The Conflict

Hamlet pretends to be mad while he tries to uncover the truth. He stages a play that copies his father’s murder to see if Claudius will reveal his guilt. Claudius reacts with fear, proving the ghost was right.

Hamlet accidentally kills Polonius, the king’s advisor, while confronting his mother. This pushes Ophelia, Polonius’s daughter (and Hamlet’s love), into grief and madness. She eventually drowns. Her brother Laertes blames Hamlet and seeks revenge.

# The Ending

Claudius arranges a duel between Hamlet and Laertes, using poisoned swords and a poisoned drink. During the fight:
- Gertrude drinks the poisoned wine and dies.
- Both Laertes and Hamlet are wounded with the poisoned blade.
- Before dying, Hamlet kills Claudius.

In the end, almost everyone is dead — Gertrude, Claudius, Laertes, and Hamlet himself. Only Hamlet’s loyal friend Horatio survives to tell the story.

# Themes in Simple Words

- Revenge vs. Morality: Should Hamlet kill Claudius or not?
- Madness: Is Hamlet really crazy, or just acting?
- Corruption: Power and lies destroy families and kingdoms.
- Life and Death: Hamlet asks big questions, like 'What’s the point of living?'

👉 In short: Hamlet is about a young prince caught between doing what is right, what is expected, and what his heart tells him. His hesitation and the corruption around him lead to tragedy for nearly everyone.