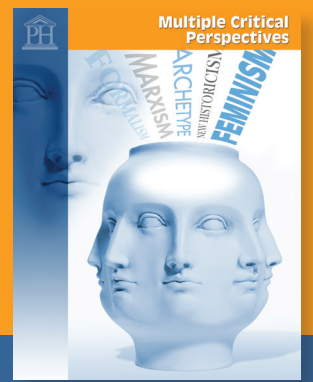


Multiple Critical Perspectives

Using critical theory to foster a rich understanding of classic literature

Hamlet

by William Shakespeare



Feminist Approach

Consider Gertrude's options as a woman in her society; how might her situation have contributed to the circumstances of the play?



Mythological Approach

How might Claudius and Gertrude be viewed as a corrupted Adam and Eve? Consider *Hamlet* as a retelling of the Garden of Eden story.



Psychoanalytic/Freudian Approach

Examine the Oedipal influences in the play:

- Gertrude and Claudius
- Gertrude and Hamlet
- Hamlet and Claudius
- Hamlet and Polonius
- Hamlet and Ophelia



William Shakespeare (1564 - 1616), wrote 38 plays, 154 sonnets, and two long narrative poems and is generally regarded to be the greatest writer in the English language. His plays have been translated into every modern language and are taught in virtually every English-speaking high school. There is always a Shakespeare play in production somewhere in the world, and his plays have been performed more than those of any other playwright.