

## *Hamlet* Thematic Topics Review

	Motif/Symbol/Issue	What happens in the play involving this motif/symbol/issue?	What does <i>Hamlet</i> have to say about this motif/symbol/issue? (Theme?)
<b>Motifs</b>	Father-Son Relationships (or parent-child)		
	Poison (corruption)		
	Illness & Disease		
	Ruin & Decay		
	Acting, Appearances, & Hypocrisy (contrasted with honesty/authenticity)		
	Order vs. Chaos		
	Sleep & Dreams		
	Battle, Fighting, & War	<i>Especially in the first act, there are many references to battle, fighting, and war, and in the action of the play, Claudius &amp; Hamlet seem to be at war with each other. Claudius is also at war with his conscience.</i>	<i>The battle motif in this play reveals the inevitability of conflict in times of grief and when power is at stake.</i>
	Death & Mortality		

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<b>Symbols</b>	King Hamlet's Ghost	<i>The ghost appears after midnight and two guards + Horatio see it. Later Hamlet sees it and speaks with it. It charges Hamlet with getting revenge.</i>	<i>The ghost is a reminder that no matter how well evil deeds have been concealed, the truth will come out.</i>
	"The Mouse Trap" play		
	Ophelia's Flowers		
	Yorick's Skull		
<b>Issues</b>	Bad Signs/Omens		
	Revenge		
	Lies & Deceit		
	Inaction vs. Action		
	Destiny		
	Family		