

## Hamlet

*Hamlet, prince of Denmark, has professed his love to OPHELIA, the daughter of Polonius, the Lord Chamberlain. He has begun to show signs of mental instability, however, since the death of his father, his mother's remarriage and visitations from his father's ghost. In this scene, Ophelia is clearly frightened and has come to tell her father about Hamlet's strange behaviour.*

### **OPHELIA:**

O my lord, my lord, I have been so affrighted.  
 My lord, as I was sewing in my closet,  
 Lord Hamlet, with his doublet all unbrac'd,  
 No hat upon his head, his stockings foul'd,  
 Ungarter'd and down-gyved to his ankle,  
 Pale as his shirt, his knees knocking each other,  
 And with a look so piteous in purport  
 As if he had been loosed out of hell  
 To speak of horrors, he comes before me.

He took me by the wrist and held me hard.  
 Then goes he to the length of all his arm,  
 And with his other hand thus o'er his brow  
 He falls to such perusal of my face  
 As a would draw it. Long stay'd he so.  
 At last, a little shaking of mine arm,  
 And thrice his head thus waving up and down,  
 He rais'd a sigh so piteous and profound  
 As it did seem to shatter all his bulk  
 And end his being. That done, he lets me go,  
 And with his head over his shoulder turn'd  
 He seem'd to find his way without his eyes,  
 For out o' doors he went without their helps,  
 And to the last bended their light on me.

*by William Shakespeare*