



# Understanding Hamlet: A Student Casebook to Issues, Sources, and Historical Documents (The Greenwood Press "Literature in Context" Series)

By Richard Corum

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Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, regarded by many as the world's most famous play by the world's most famous writer, is one of the most complex, demanding, discussed, and influential literary texts in English. As a means of access to this play, this unique collection of primary materials and commentary will help student and teacher explore historical, literary, theatrical, social, and cultural issues related to the play. In an approach unique for this series, Corum guides the reader through a literary analysis of Hamlet's options. He examines the popular theatres of the day in which Shakespeare and his company first produced *Hamlet* and discusses the genre of tragedy in which it is written. Through judicious selection of primary historical documents, the work provides contexts for understanding Hamlet's melancholy, the ghost of Hamlet's father, the theme of revenge, and Hamlet's feigned madness. Chapters on Gertrude and Ophelia illuminate these characters in the context of the play and early modern English culture.

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### **Editorial Review**

#### **About the Author**

RICHARD CORUM teaches English at the University of California at Santa Barbara. His field of expertise is English Renaissance literature, especially Shakespeare, on which he published essays on Henry V and *Love's Labour's Lost*. He has also published an essay on Milton's *Paradise Lost*.

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