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Hamlet Parallel Plot Contributions

In the *Tragedy of Hamlet*, Shakespeare used two additional characters that had small effects on the plot in order to amplify the persona of the young Hamlet. One of these characters was Fortinbras. The other was Laertes.

Fortinbras was the son of the King of Norway, and the first heir to the throne. His father was killed in unclear circumstances that allowed Old Hamlet to gain some of Old Norway's land. After his father's death, Fortinbras' uncle gained the throne instead of himself. In order to gain revenge for his father's death, he decided to invade Hamlet's home country Denmark. This plan was diverted to Poland, but was allowed to continue for the cause. These circumstances are almost perfectly parallel to Hamlet's own. The biggest difference comes in the way that the situation is handled. Fortinbras wants revenge, and immediately takes huge steps to gain it. Hamlet wants revenge, but does little about it.

Laertes is in a different situation from both Hamlet and Fortinbras. He is the son of Polonius, who is killed by Hamlet while confronting his mother about life. Laertes immediately starts looking for revenge. He doesn't go about it quietly at all, like Hamlet. He is immediately searching for someone to take revenge out on.