



Hamlet Fortinbras: A Story of Revenge

While several characters crave some sort of revenge in *Hamlet*, Fortinbras is the only character who is truly successful in his attempt to take revenge on Denmark. Fortinbras's storyline occurs in the main plot's background and is presented mostly through reports and subtle foreshadowing. The scenes listed in the chart represent all relevant mentions of Fortinbras in *Hamlet*.

In column 1: Review the act, scene, and lines in which Fortinbras is mentioned or appears in the text.

In column 2: Note the characters in the scene. Then record a quote from the scene that concerns or refers to Fortinbras.

In column 3: Summarize the situation that involves Fortinbras. Be sure to record the reasons he's mentioned and how he is mentioned.

In column 4: Explain in what ways the reference to Fortinbras demonstrates the similarities of Fortinbras's and Hamlet's motivations.

Act, Scene, Line(s)	Characters/Quote	Summarize the Situation Involving Fortinbras	Compare Fortinbras's and Hamlet's Motivations
1.1.79–97	Characters: Horatio, Barnardo, Marcellus Quote: <i>“[O]ur last king, Whose image even but now appeared to us, Was, as you know, by Fortinbras of Norway, Thereto pricked on by a most emulate pride, Dared to the combat; in which our valiant Hamlet (For so this side of our known world esteemed him)</i>	<i>Barnardo, Marcellus, and Horatio are speculating about why the king's spirit may have come to visit them. In doing so, they present background information that reveals the former king's battle with young Fortinbras's father and how King Hamlet conquered Norway. Barnardo confirms that the reason the three are on watch is because young Fortinbras has gathered a small army that seems to be threatening Denmark. It appears young Fortinbras wants to win back what his father lost.</i>	<i>This scene sets up the history between Fortinbras's and Hamlet's families. It demonstrates Fortinbras's motivation for seeking revenge against Denmark, a revenge that is later paralleled by Hamlet.</i>

	<p>Did slay this Fortinbras, who by a sealed compact Well ratified by law and heraldry . . . Now, sir, young Fortinbras, Of unimprovèd mettle hot and full, Hath in the skirts of Norway here and there Sharked up a list of lawless resolute[.]”</p>		
<p>1.2.1-40</p>	<p>Characters: Claudius, Voltimand, Cornelius</p> <p>Quote:</p>		

2.2.60–86	Characters: Voltimand, Claudius, Polonius, Cornelius Quote:		
4.4.1–65	Characters: Fortinbras, Captain, Hamlet Quote:		

5.1.122-123	<p>Characters: Hamlet, Gravedigger</p> <p>Quote:</p>		
5.2.348-360	<p>Characters: Osric, Hamlet, Horatio</p> <p>Quote:</p>		

RL.11-12.1 Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

RL.11-12.2 Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text.

RL.11-12.3 Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama (e.g., where a story is set, how the action is ordered, how the characters are introduced and developed).