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English 250 6:00MW

Professor Barkley

31 July 2002

Similarities and Differences between King Lear and Hamlet

SIMILARITIES

- Both King Lear and Hamlet are mad.
- Both tragedies exhibit a revenge theme.
- Both tragedies show the machinations of the courts of its day.
- Lear and Hamlet both have incidences of murder within the royal family.
- Goneril rejects Albany. Hamlet rejects Ophelia.
- Lear and Hamlet both have members of the royal family killed with poison.

DIFFERENCES

- Lear is mad. Hamlet's madness is a foil.
- Lear is a king. Hamlet is a prince.
- King Lear is set in England. Hamlet is set in Denmark.
- King Lear has a fool. Hamlet contains no fool.
- King Lear contains a predominance of the Machiavellian Viewpoint. Hamlet is predominately Renaissance Christian Humanist.
- King Lear abdicates his throne. Hamlet's throne is usurped through his mother's remarriage.