



# The Modern Scholar: Shakespeare: The Seven Major Tragedies

By Harold Bloom

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**The Modern Scholar: Shakespeare: The Seven Major Tragedies** By Harold Bloom

Shakespeare's seven great tragedies contain unmistakable elements that set them apart from any other plays ever written.

In *Romeo and Juliet*, Shakespeare embodied in the character of Juliet the world's most impressive representation ever of a woman in love. With *Julius Caesar*, the great playwright produced a drama of astonishing and perpetual relevance. In *Hamlet*, Shakespeare created a character with the most brilliant mind in all of literature. And the character of Iago in *Othello* has been the very archetype of the villain ever since. *King Lear* presents audiences with unparalleled emotional and intellectual demands. *Macbeth* is a play of ruthless economy in which Shakespeare forces his audience into intimate sympathy with a man not far from being a mass murderer. Finally, in *Antony and Cleopatra*, Shakespeare created something entirely new: a vast political and historical conspectus involving the whole world.

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