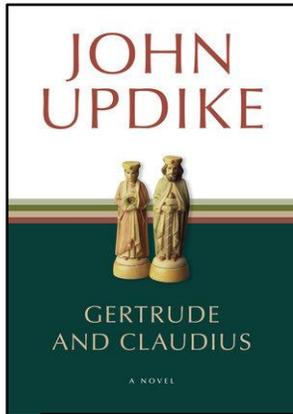


# Ham • LIT *Four modern incarnations of Shakespeare's Danish tragedy*



## Gertrude and Claudius, John Updike

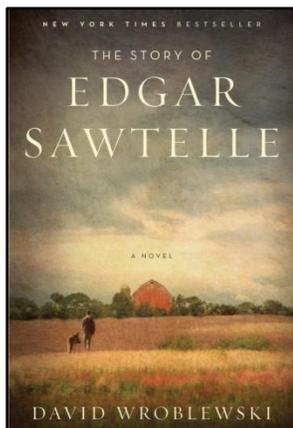
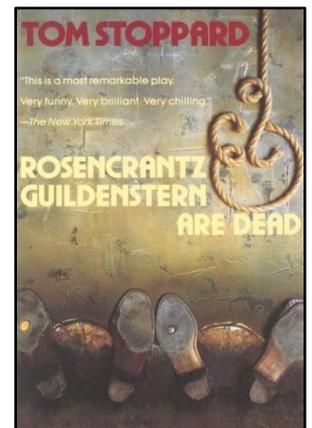
Gertrude and Claudius are the “villains” of *Hamlet*: he the killer of Hamlet’s father and usurper of the Danish throne; she his lusty consort, who marries Claudius before her late husband’s body is cold. But in this imaginative “prequel” to the play, Gertrude and Claudius are seen afresh against a background of fond intentions and family dysfunction, on a stage darkened by the ominous shadow of a sullen, erratic, disaffected prince.

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## The Dead Fathers Club, Matt Haig

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