passion and emotions are heightened and the conclusion of the action brings 'Catharsis' or release from the passion. However, Shakespearean tragedy is markedly different in terms of manner, approach and intention.



4.6 LET US SUM UP

In this unit, you have not only learnt about the life and works of William Shakespeare but have also read about the story of the play *Hamlet* in some detail. You have learnt that Shakespeare's professional life in London was marked by a number of financially advantageous arrangements that earned him heavy profits—Lord Chamberlain's Company, which later came to be known as the King's Men; and its two Theatres, the Globe Theatre and the Black Friars. Shakespeare produced most of his known works between 1589 and 1613. His early plays were mainly comedies and histories until about 1608, when he wrote his tragedies—*Hamlet, King Lear, Othello* and *Macbeth.* In his last phase, he wrote tragi-comedies, also known as romances, and collaborated with other playwrights. The figure of Hamlet has influenced generations of readers. The play *Hamlet* has provoked more discussions, performances and scholarships than any other in the entire history of world drama.



4.7 FURTHER READING

1) Grosz, Tanya & Linda Wendler. (2006). *Shakespeare Made Easy Hamlet.*US: Saddleback Educational Publishing.

2) Edwards, Phillip. (ed). (2003). *Hamlet, Prince of Denmark.* UK: Cambridge University Press.

4.8 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q No 1: It was a acting company for whom Shakespeare composed most of his plays. It was founded during the reign of Elizabeth I of