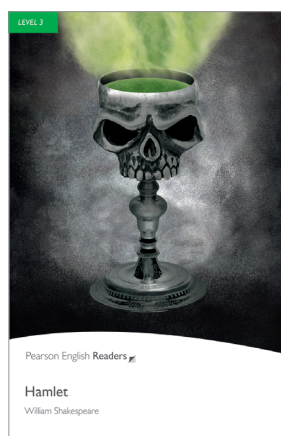


Hamlet

William Shakespeare



About the author

Although Shakespeare is one of the world's greatest writers, surprisingly little is known about his life, especially his early years in Stratford. However, we do know that:

a) he was born on 23 April 1564 and died on his 52nd birthday, in 1616; b) his mother, Mary Arden, came from a higher social background than his father, who was a civil servant; c) he went to a good school but did not attend university; d) in 1582 he married Anne Hathaway and they had three children; e) he wrote 37 plays, sometimes writing three plays a year! He also wrote poetry, including a number of beautiful sonnets.

Some of his plays are: *The Taming of the Shrew* (1591), *Richard III* (1592), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (1594), *Romeo and Juliet* (1595), *The Merchant of Venice* (1596), *Henry V* (1599), *Much Ado About Nothing* (1599), *Julius Caesar* (1599), *Twelfth Night* (1600), *Hamlet* (1601), *Othello* (1604), *King Lear* (1605), *Macbeth* (1605), *Antony and Cleopatra* (1606), *The Tempest* (1611).

Summary

The King of Denmark, is dead and has been succeeded not by his son, Hamlet, but by his brother and killer, Claudius. Soon after the funeral, Claudius marries his brother's widow, Gertrude. Hamlet, haunted by the spectre of his father and maddened by his inner ghosts seeks to avenge the death of the King.

Act I: Hamlet, still upset by his father's death, sees the ghost of his father, who tells him that he was murdered by Claudius. The Ghost asks his son to avenge his death. Hamlet pretends to go mad. Polonius, the Lord Chamberlain, forbids his daughter, Ophelia, to see Hamlet.

Act II: Ophelia tells Polonius that Hamlet has been lurking about her room and speaking nonsense. She shows Hamlet's love letters to her father. Polonius assumes that Hamlet is madly in love with his daughter and that he has been acting strangely ever since he was forbidden to see his beloved. Polonius informs this to the King and they stage a scene to find out whether or not Hamlet is sick with love.

Act III: Spied on by Polonius and Claudius, Ophelia returns Hamlet's love letters and is violently rejected by him. This will have a terrible effect on her. A group of travelling actors arrives at the court. Hamlet asks them to perform a play in which a king is murdered by his nephew. He hopes that the story, which is similar to the murder of his father by Claudius, will force Claudius to betray his guilt. Hamlet is right: Claudius is upset by the play. Hamlet is summoned to his mother's room, where he angrily criticises her for her hasty marriage. He accidentally kills Polonius, who is hiding behind a curtain, believing him to be Claudius.

Act IV: Claudius sends Hamlet to England, planning to have him murdered. Laertes, Polonius's son, returns to Denmark from France, demanding revenge for his father's death. Ophelia, mad with grief, drowns herself.

Act V: Hamlet returns from England, having discovered Claudius's plot to have him killed. He confronts Laertes and Claudius at Ophelia's funeral. Claudius plots with Laertes to kill Hamlet with a poisoned sword in a swordfight. The plot goes wrong and Laertes dies. Gertrude drinks from a poisoned cup intended for Hamlet and dies. Hamlet, wounded by the poisoned sword, kills Claudius before he, too, dies. Young Fortinbras, Prince of Norway, enters and claims the throne of Denmark for himself.

About the films

Many films have been made of the play. The most well-known were made in: 1948 – with Laurence Olivier as Hamlet. It won four Oscars, including Best Picture and Best Actor; 1969 – with Nicol Williamson as Hamlet and Anthony Hopkins as Claudius; 1996 – with Kenneth Branagh as Hamlet and Kate Winslet as Ophelia.

Background and themes

Shakespeare's plays are famous throughout the world for their poetry and their insights into the nature of life and the human condition. A large number of them are set in

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the south of Europe, particularly Italy. However, he chose gloomy northern European landscapes for three of his darkest tragedies: *Macbeth*, *King Lear* and *Hamlet*.

The story of *Hamlet* is found in the folk literature of Iceland, Ireland and Denmark. The earliest reference we have to Hamlet is in an eleventh-century Icelandic poem.

Shakespeare's play is as widely read, seen and performed today as it was four hundred years ago. One of the main reasons is that Hamlet himself is a character that people will always identify with. He is a complex character – his sense of honour and duty is in constant conflict with his inner doubts and uncertainties. This confusion leads to delay and indecision and, ultimately, to final tragedy.

Apart from the complex nature of Hamlet himself, there are other themes:

Madness: Hamlet pretends to be mad to conceal his indecision. But this ploy backfires, leading to, among other things, Ophelia's genuine descent into madness over Hamlet's unintentional murder of her father.

Disease and poison: 'Something is rotten in the state of Denmark'. Poison is the main instrument of death in the story.

Revenge: In a traditional revenge tragedy, the hero plans his revenge. In *Hamlet*, the tragedy stems from the hero's doubt and uncertainty. Many lives would have been saved if Hamlet had just killed his uncle earlier.

Destiny and fate: The appearance of the Ghost is responsible for everything. Does Hamlet have a choice in what he does, or is there some great plan which makes everything inevitable?

Discussion activities

Before reading

- Group work:** Put students into small groups. Ask them the following questions: **(a)** *What Shakespeare plays do you know?* **(b)** *What do you know about the characters/story/setting of any of these plays?* **(c)** *What do you know about Hamlet?*
Discuss group findings as a class.
- Write:** Write these words on the board: *castle, ghost, grave, mad, poison, secret, revenge, wicked*. Ask students to write sentences using these words. Students read out their sentences and they write the best ones on the board.

- Predict:** Ask students to look at the cover, title and content page of the book. Guide them with these instructions: *Look at the title and book cover in pairs. What do they tell you about the story? Read the content page and discuss what the book will be about. Write a few lines on this.*
- Write:** Ask students to work in groups. They should write a short paragraph about the story using at least ten of the words below: *In groups, pick ten words and write a story about Hamlet.*
kill uncle curtain grief crazy death God Heaven Hell lord nephew skull sword worm
Ask students to look up the words they do not know in the Word List at the back of the book.
- Discuss:** Ask students to read the Introduction in pairs. Guide them with these questions: *Read the Introduction in pairs and discuss with another student: (a) What problems has Hamlet got? (b) Why Hamlet, the play, is so famous?*
- Tie in with films:** If you have access to video or DVD, watch the first three to five scenes of any of the *Hamlet* film versions with the sound off. Tell students to choose one of the scenes and imagine what the characters say. Play the film again and check whose guess was closest to the original.

Act I

While reading

- Group work:** Tell students to work in groups and fill out the following chart as they read pages 1–4: *Write down as much as you know about what each of the characters feels and thinks after the King's death.*

Hamlet	Polonius	Gertrude	Claudius

- Write:** Tell your students to read Scene 2, on page 4, and do the following activity: *Read Scene 2 in pairs. Imagine you are Ophelia after her conversation with her father. What do you write in your diary?*
- Read and discuss:** Ask students to do the following activity as they read pages 6–8: *Work in pairs. Read Scene 4 and then look at the picture on page 7. Who is there? What are they like? What are they thinking? Continue their conversation on page 6.*

After reading

- Discuss:** Put students into groups to discuss these questions: *Now that you have finished Act I, discuss these questions: (a) How do these people feel about each other? Why? 1) Hamlet and Gertrude 2) Hamlet and Claudius 3) Polonius and Hamlet (b) What does the Ghost want Hamlet to do? Why?*

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11 Role play: Put students into pairs. Ask them to act out this imaginary conversation after they finish reading the chapter: *Work in pairs and imagine the following conversation between Hamlet and Ophelia.*
Student A: You are Hamlet. Tell Ophelia about the Ghost and your plans for revenge.
Student B: You are Ophelia. You don't think Hamlet should listen to the Ghost. Tell him why. Write down what they say and then act it out.
 Choose three pairs to role play their scene in front of the class.

12 Predict: Ask students to work in groups. Tell them to predict what will happen in Act II: *In groups, discuss what you think will happen in Act II between Hamlet and Ophelia, between Hamlet and Polonius, and between Polonius and Ophelia with Hamlet and his plans for revenge.*

Act II

While reading

13 Check and discuss: Ask students to work on the same groups as in activity 12 and to compare their predictions with what actually happens in the scene in Act II. They should fill out a chart that they will copy from the board: *Read Act II and compare your group answers after reading Act I to what actually happens in Act II. Fill out the chart and then find out how close you were!*

What we thought would happen in Act II	What really happens in Act II

14 Role play: Tell your students to do the following activity in pairs after reading Hamlet's conversation with Guildenstern: *In pairs, read from page 12 up to the end of Act II. The talk there ends in 'the play is the key to the secrets of his heart' ... Continue the conversation and work on Hamlet's plan.*

After reading

15 Discuss: Put students into small groups to discuss these questions: *In groups, discuss (a) What secrets do these people want to know? How do they plan to find them? 1) Hamlet 2) Claudius 3) Polonius (b) Will their plans succeed? Why (not)?*

16 Write: Tell students to work in pairs and to imagine they are Gertrude. Ask them to work on the following activity: *You are Gertrude at the end of Act II. Write down how you feel about your dead husband, your new husband, and the way your son is talking and behaving.*

Act III

While reading

17 Write: Ask students to re-read pages 18 to the end of the scene and work on the following activity: *Re-read pages 18–23 and discuss what you think each of these characters 1) Gertrude, 2) Claudius, 3) Hamlet, 4) Polonius, is thinking as they watch the actors' play. Then write down a small paragraph on each one.*
 Choose three groups to read their writings out loud.

After reading

18 Group work: Put students into small groups to discuss these questions: *In groups, discuss what Hamlet thinks about ... (a) life and death? (b) women? (c) Claudius when he is praying? (d) his mother's marriage? (e) Polonius's death? Do you agree with him? Why/Why not?*

Act IV

While reading

19 Pair work: Tell students to work in pairs as they re-read Scenes 4 and 6 and do the following activity: *Re-read Scenes 4 and 6 and imagine you are Laertes. Write down all the reasons why you have to kill Hamlet.*

After reading

20 Group work: Put students into small groups to discuss these questions: *In groups, discuss: (a) What news do you think Hamlet has for Horatio? (b) What is Claudius's plan for Hamlet? Will it succeed? Why/Why not?*

Act V

While reading

21 Group work: Tell students to work in groups and to change the first scene in Act V: *In groups, re-read Scene 1 and then get ready to role play it. But this time have each character (the workmen, Hamlet, Gertrude, Claudius) say out loud what they are really thinking.*

22 Discuss: Tell students to work in pairs and to read Scene 2 in detail. They work on the following activity: *In pairs, read the final scene of the play and decide what went wrong. What did not happen as planned? Discuss why.*

After reading

23 Role play: Put students into groups of three. Ask them to act out this conversation: *In groups of three, act out the following talk:*
Student A: You think everything is Hamlet's fault. Say why.
Student B: You think everything is Claudius's fault. Say why.
Student C: You think everything is the Ghost's fault. Say why.

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While reading

- 1 Look at the pictures in the book. On which pages can you see.
 - a a sword?
 - b a ghost?
 - c a curtain?
 - d a servant?
 - e a lord?
 - f poison?
- 2 Read the Introduction on pages v–viii and choose the right answer.
 - a Hamlet wants to *find / forget / punish* his uncle.
 - b Hamlet is a story about *love / mystery / revenge*.
 - c Hamlet was written *200 / 300 / 400* years ago.
 - d In the 1996 film, Hamlet is played by *Robin Williams / Gerard Depardieu / Kenneth Branagh*.
 - e Shakespeare was *unknown / unpopular / successful* in his lifetime.

Act I

- 3 Put these people in the order that Hamlet talks to them.
 - a Horatio
 - b Claudius
 - c Marcellus
 - d the Ghost
 - e Gertrude
- 4 Who says these things? What do the underlined words mean?
 - a 'It is a crime against God.'
.....
 - b 'That was the worst day of my life.'
.....
 - c 'My Lord, I think I saw him last night.'
.....
 - d 'I order you to stay away from him.'
.....
 - e 'He's listening too much to his imagination.'
.....
 - f 'He won the heart of my queen.'
.....

- 5 Why ...
 - a ... does the ghost appear before Hamlet?
.....
 - b ... is Hamlet furious?
.....
 - c ... is Hamlet's mother a weak woman?
.....
 - d ... can't Hamlet rest?
.....
- 6 Choose the right answer.
 - a Horatio and Marcellus have to promise they have not seen the ghost
 - 1) on Hamlet's sword.
 - 2) on Hamlet's father's grave.
 - b Hamlet tells Horatio and Marcellus that he will look and sound crazy but it will be
 - 1) reality.
 - 2) an act.
 - c Hamlet says that the unhappiest time of all was
 - 1) the day he was born.
 - 2) the day he saw the ghost.

Act II

- 7 Choose the right answer.
 - a Rosencrantz and Guildenstern have come to help
 - 1) Hamlet.
 - 2) Claudius.
 - 3) Ophelia.
 - b Polonius feels Hamlet.
 - 1) amused by
 - 2) angry with
 - 3) sorry for
 - c Hamlet tells Rosencrantz and Guildenstern that he
 - 1) is bored with life.
 - 2) loves Ophelia.
 - 3) does not like plays.
- 8 Which of these words describe Hamlet, and why?

angry brave nervous pleased rude
strange unsure wise

.....
.....
.....
.....

Hamlet

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9 Tell the story. Which sentence comes first? Write numbers 1–11 next to the sentences.

- a Ophelia is afraid of Hamlet's crazy eyes and words.
- b Polonius tells the King and the Queen why he thinks Hamlet has acted strangely.
- c Rosencrantz and Guildenstern arrive at Hamlet's castle.
- d Polonius, Gertrude and Claudius decide to hide and watch Hamlet and Ophelia talk.
- e Hamlet decides to think of a plan.
- f Hamlet does not know if the ghost is telling him the truth.
- g Hamlet decides to ask the actors to play a story similar to the murder of his own father.
- h Hamlet remembers that a good play can show the wicked secrets in men.
- i Hamlet thinks that he is the least brave of all men.
- j Rosencrantz and Guildenstern tell Hamlet that a group of actors are coming to act for him.
- k Gertrude asks Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to help her son.

10 Match the following questions a–f to the answers 1–6.

- a Who are the very good old friends of Prince Hamlet?
 - b What news is there from Norway?
 - c What does Polonius read to Claudius and Gertrude?
 - d In Polonius's opinion, why did Hamlet stop eating and sleeping?
 - e Who is a 'stupid old man' to Hamlet?
 - f Who are coming to Elsinore to please Prince Hamlet?
- 1) Because he is madly in love with Ophelia.
 - 2) Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.
 - 3) Polonius.
 - 4) Hamlet's love letters to Ophelia.
 - 5) There will be no war for the moment.
 - 6) A groups of actors.

Act III

11 Are these sentences about Hamlet right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a He is afraid of death.
- b He wants to marry Ophelia.
- c He sits next to Ophelia during the play.
- d He is excited after the play.
- e He is very angry with Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.
- f He decides to forgive Claudius.

Act IV

12 Who talks about these things, and why?

- a worms
- b flowers
- c a letter
- d revenge.....
- e swords

13 Are these people angry with Hamlet? Why/Why not?

- a Gertrude
- b Claudius
- c Rosencrantz
- d Ophelia
- e Laertes

Act V

14 Who are these sentences about?

- a He talks to a skull
- b They fight near a grave
- c They die in England
- d They ask for forgiveness

After reading

15 Work in pairs and discuss these questions.

- a Who do you feel most sorry for at the end of the play? Why?
- b Why doesn't Hamlet kill Claudius earlier? Is he right to wait? Why/Why not?
- c What is the worst thing that Hamlet does?

Hamlet

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Act I

- 1 **Underline** the wrong word and put the right one.
- a Laertes comes to Denmark to see Hamlet become King.
 - b Hamlet is angry with his mother because she married Claudius only a year after his father died.
 - c Horatio tells Hamlet that Polonius and Ophelia saw the ghost of his father.
 - d Hamlet was told that the ghost of his father is dressed like a servant.

2 Circle the right words.

- a Polonius orders Ophelia
 - 1) to stay away from Hamlet.
 - 2) to marry Hamlet.
- b Marcellus says that he and Horatio
 - 1) must protect Hamlet.
 - 2) must leave the castle.
- c The ghost of Hamlet's father tells Hamlet
 - 1) that he was killed in a battle with Norway.
 - 2) that he was not murdered by an animal.

Act II

3 Match the questions and the answers.

- a Why is Polonius sorry?
- b What does the King of Norway want?
- c What did Polonius tell his daughter to do right after he found Hamlet's letters?
- d What will Polonius do if he is wrong about Hamlet's love for his daughter?
- e Who does Hamlet say Polonius is when he finds him in castle room?
- f What are the 'words' Hamlet is reading about?
 - 1) Because he realises he was wrong about Prince Hamlet's love for his daughter.
 - 2) Lies.
 - 3) A fish-seller.
 - 4) He requests permission for Fortinbras and his mean to pass quietly through Denmark.
 - 5) He will become a farmer.
 - 6) He told her to lock herself up in her room and to receive no messages from him.

Act III

4 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a Rosencrantz and Guildenstern tell Gertrude that Hamlet was very rude to them.

- b Gertrude thinks that Ophelia can make Hamlet well again with her sweetness and kindness.
- c When Ophelia returns Hamlet his own letters, he recognises the letters are his.

5 Circle the right words.

- a Ophelia feels that Hamlet's words filled her ears with *love and music / crazy words*.
- b Claudius feels that Hamlet's sadness hides *a dark secret in his heart / a crazy idea in his mind*.
- c Hamlet asks Horatio to *watch his uncle / talk to Ophelia* while the actors are playing the story.
- d Hamlet tells Ophelia that his father has been dead for *two minutes / two hours*.

Act IV

6 Finish the sentences.

- a Claudius sends Hamlet to England because he actually wants
- b Claudius says that Ophelia has gone mad because
- c Laertes enters the castle with a crowd of men because he wants
- d In his letter to Horatio, Hamlet tells him that

7 Choose the right word from the box.

sword poison death murderer madness revenge
--

- a Claudius tells Laertes that the of his father actually wanted to kill him.
- b Laertes is sad because has taken his father and has taken his sister.
- c Claudius helps Laertes to take on Hamlet.
- d Laertes and Claudius decide to the to kill Hamlet.

Act V

8 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a The workman says that Prince Hamlet was sent to England because the people there are as mad as he is.
- b Hamlet is happy that Ophelia is dead.
- c Hamlet found a letter ordering his own death in the room of two of his best friends.
- d Hamlet wants to be friends with Laertes again because they are both in grief.
- e Laertes forgives Hamlet and decides that he will not fight him.

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Book key

- 1 Open answers
- 2 a people: lord / nephew / servant
parts of a play: act / scene
things that are found in the ground: grave / skull / worm
things that can kill: poison / revenge / sword
- b Open answers
- 3 a Denmark
b Claudius
c perfect
d simple
e 1,700 years ago
f 24
g between 1598 and 1602
- 4 Open answers
- 5 a Claudius – Hamlet's uncle
b Fortinbras – the King of Norway's nephew
c Polonius – the King of Denmark's friend
d Laertes – Polonius's son
e Gertrude – Hamlet's mother
f Horatio – Hamlet's friend
g Ophelia – Laertes's sister
- 6 a lost land to Hamlet's father.
b did not really love his father.
c does not want his daughter to get into trouble.
d punish the King.
- 7 a Open answers
b Possible answer: weakness
c Open answers
d Possible answer: to watch him carefully
- 8 Open answers
- 9 a 4 b 5 c 1 d 3 e 2 f 6
- 10 a wrong – he is not really mad
b wrong – Polonius does
c right
d wrong – she has *shown* them to her father, but has returned them to Hamlet
e wrong – they are not sure
f right
g wrong – only Horatio, Marcellus and Barnardo know about the Ghost
h wrong – he is not sure that the Ghost was honest
i right
- 11 a Possible answers:
Polonius thinks that Hamlet is mad with love for his daughter. He feels a bit sorry for him. Ophelia loves Hamlet, but she is afraid of his mad actions. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern seem to like Hamlet, but they are spying on him for the King. Gertrude is really worried about Hamlet and wants him to get better. Claudius is more afraid of Hamlet than worried about him.
- b Open answers
- 12 Open answers
- 13 a live
b stupid
c does not believe
d afraid of
e honest
f are
g does not feel
h does not know
i cannot
j Claudius
- 14 Open answers
- 15 a when
b if
c but
d because / when
e during
f so
g after
h while / because
i before
j until
- 16 a Claudius – Hamlet hates him and wants to kill him. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern – Hamlet does not like them because they are spies. Ophelia – Hamlet is probably afraid of her. He has acted badly with her, and has killed her father by mistake. Polonius – Hamlet thinks that he was a silly old man. But he is sorry that he is dead. Gertrude – He is less angry with her than before. He wants to forgive her.
- b Claudius is afraid of him. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern want to be friendly, but do not understand him. Ophelia probably hates him for killing her father.
Polonius is dead. Gertrude pities him. She thinks that he is mad.
- c Open answers

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- 17 a** Hamlet will want to kill Claudius. Claudius will probably want to kill Hamlet.
b Hamlet has killed Ophelia's father. Ophelia will hate Hamlet.
c Laertes will be angry about his father's death. Perhaps he will think that Claudius is the murderer. Claudius will be afraid of Laertes. But perhaps he can make Laertes angry with Hamlet.
d Hamlet will be worried because he has killed Laertes's father. Laertes will want revenge.
- 18 a** Hamlet / Polonius
b Ophelia / Polonius
c Claudius / Hamlet, Polonius's death, Ophelia's madness, Laertes's return
d Laertes / Ophelia's madness
e Hamlet / his journey to England
f Claudius / Hamlet
g Laertes / Hamlet
h Gertrude / Ophelia
- 19 a** (worm) dog
b (brother) father
c (Hamlet) Laertes
d (Claudius) No one
e (money) help
f (three) two
g (sad) glad, happy, pleased, excited
h (gun) sword
i (food) drink
j (jumped) fell
- 20 a** mad
b kind
c secret
d stupid
e fat / thin
f safe
g afraid
h unbelievable
i patient
j thirsty
- 21–22** Open answers
- 23 a** Hamlet **b** Yorick **c** Gertrude **d** Hamlet
e Osric **f** Horatio **g** Claudius **h** Laertes
i Horatio **j** Fortinbras
- 24 a** 1 Hamlet's father
 2 Polonius
 3 Ophelia
 4 Rosencrantz and Guildenstern
 5 Gertrude
 6 Laertes
 7 Claudius
 8 Hamlet
- b** Hamlet's father – in his garden. Polonius – behind a curtain in Gertrude's room. Ophelia – in an icy stream.
 Rosencrantz and Guildenstern – in England.
 Gertrude, Laertes, Claudius and Hamlet – the large room in the castle.
- c–d** Hamlet's father – murdered by Claudius.
 Polonius – killed accidentally by Hamlet. Ophelia – fell out of a tree into the water. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern – killed by the King of England because Hamlet had secretly changed the letter from Claudius. Gertrude – poisoned accidentally by Claudius. Laertes – killed by the poison on his own sword. Claudius – killed by Hamlet. Hamlet – killed by the poison on Laertes's sword.
- e** Open answers
- 25–35** Open answers

Discussion activities key

1–6 Open answers

7 Suggested answers:

Hamlet	Polonius	Gertrude	Claudius
is angry that his mother has married his uncle so soon. suspects his uncle. is terribly sad about his father's death.	thinks that Hamlet is acting strangely because he is sick with love. thinks the King's death is a terrible tragedy.	appears not to think about her dead husband as much as Hamlet would like her to. is very worried about her son.	does not feel guilty or worried. he is concerned about Hamlet's behaviour.

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8 Suggested answers:

I love Hamlet and he loves me. I can't believe why my father thinks he is crazy and out of love with me. I need to see him or I'll go crazy myself.

9 Open answers

10 Suggested answers:

Hamlet is unhappy because Gertrude married Claudius. Gertrude wants Hamlet to stop being unfriendly to Claudius. Hamlet hates Claudius because he murdered his father. Claudius is friendly to Hamlet.

Polonius does not want his daughter to see Hamlet.

We do not know how Hamlet feels about Polonius.

The Ghost wants Hamlet to punish Claudius for murdering him.

11–14 Open answers

15 Suggested answers:

Hamlet wants to know if Claudius really murdered his father. He wants Claudius to watch a play about a similar crime. Claudius wants to know why Hamlet is acting strangely. He asks Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to help him. Polonius wants to prove that Hamlet is mad because of love for his daughter. He plans to watch Hamlet and Ophelia in secret.

16–17 Open answers

- 18 a** Hamlet thinks that life is not as frightening as death.
b He thinks that prettiness is a bad thing.
c He does not want to kill Claudius while he is praying. He does not want Claudius to go to Heaven.
d He thinks that his mother's marriage is wicked.
e He thinks that Polonius was silly, but he is sorry that he is dead.

19–23 Open answers

Activity worksheets key

- 1 a** a sword – pages 7, 25, 35, 45
b a ghost – page 7
c a curtain – pages 13, 35
d a servant – page 45
e a lord – page 45
f poison – page 45
- 2 a** punish
b revenge
c 400
d Kenneth Branagh
e successful

- 3 a** 3 **b** 1 **c** 4 **d** 5 **e** 2

- 4 a** Claudius / too much sadness
b Hamlet / the day of his father's death
c Horatio / the Ghost or Hamlet's father
d Polonius / Hamlet
e Horatio / Hamlet
f the Ghost / Claudius

5 Suggested answers:

- a** Because he wants Hamlet to find out that he was murdered.
b Because he learns that his own uncle killed his father.
c Because she cannot be alone.
d Because he has to avenge the death of his father.

- 6 a** 1 **b** 2 **c** 1

- 7 a** 2 **b** 3 **c** 1

- 8** pleased – because there is going to be a play; rude – to Polonius; strange – he seems to be mad; unsure – he does not know if the Ghost is honest

- 9 a** 1 **b** 4 **c** 2 **d** 5 **e** 9 **f** 8 **g** 11 **h** 10
i 7 **j** 6 **k** 3

- 10 a** 2 **b** 5 **c** 4 **d** 1 **e** 3 **f** 6

- 11 a** ✓ **b** ✗ **c** ✓ **d** ✓ **e** ✓ **f** ✗

- 12 a** Hamlet – Polonius is dead (feeding the worms).
b Ophelia – There are no flowers on her father's grave.
c Claudius – He receives a letter from Hamlet.
d Laertes – He wants revenge on Hamlet for killing his father.
e Claudius and Laertes – They plan to kill Hamlet in a swordfight.

- 13 a** No – She wants Hamlet to forgive her.
b Yes – Hamlet has killed Polonius. Claudius thinks that he is dangerous.
c Yes – Hamlet is rude to him.
d No – She is mad.
e Yes – His father and sister are dead because of Hamlet.

- 14 a** Hamlet
b Laertes and Hamlet
c Rosencrantz and Guildenstern
d Hamlet and Laertes

- 15** Open answers

Hamlet

Progress test key

- 1 a Hamlet > Claudius
 b year > month
 c Polonius and Ophelia > Marcellus and Barnardo
 d servant > soldier
- 2 a 1 b 1 c 2
- 3 a 1 b 4 c 6 d 5 e 3 f 2
- 4 a **X** b **✓** c **X**
- 5 a *crazy words*
 b *a dark secret in his heart*
 c *watch his uncle*
 d *two hours*
- 6 a Claudius sends Hamlet to England because he actually wants *to have him killed*.
 b Claudius says that Ophelia has gone mad because *her father was killed and Hamlet is missing*.
 c Laertes enters the castle with a crowd of men because he wants *to avenge the death of his father and to become king himself*.
 d In his letter to Horatio, Hamlet tells him that *he is a prisoner on a robbers' ship and that he must come to him*.
- 7 a murderer
 b death, madness
 c revenge
 d poison, sword
- 8 a **✓** b **X** c **✓** d **✓** e **X**