

Can you remember the plot of *Hamlet*?

Have you ever read or watched the play?

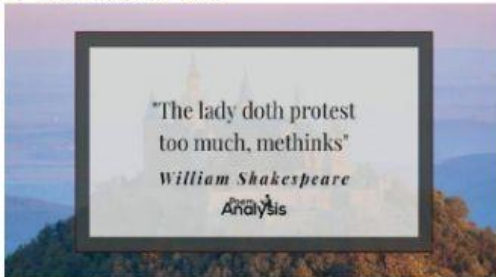
Did you like it?

Can you remember any quotes?



"To thine own self be true."

-Polonius 1.3



"Though this be madness, yet there is method in 't."

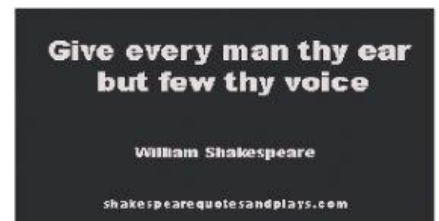
-Polonius 2.2

"The play's the thing..."

-Hamlet 2.2.

"Brevity is the soul of wit."

-Polonius 2.2.



"There are more things in Heaven and Earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy."

-Hamlet 1.5.

"Alas, poor Yorik! I knew him well."

-Hamlet 5.1

"Something is rotten in the state of Denmark."

-Marcellus 1.4

"There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so."

- Hamlet 2.2



"Listen to many, speak to a few."

— Polonius 1.3

Which quote would fit the picture on the left?

1. Listen to the warning from Aria Code podcast _____ and type in the telephone number of the Suicide Prevention Lifeline

2. Listen to Rhiannon Giddens' intro _____

Is the opera by Brett Dean and librettist Matthew Jocelyn the first operatic adaptation of Hamlet?

What do the composer and librettist boil down this Shakespeare longest play to?

Brett Dean



Giving the gist of the play, Rhiannon briefly mentions Hamlet's actions. Can you remember them?

fights

freaks out

stalls

acts in a play

plays detective

contemplates suicide

goes to England

wants to kill his uncle

breaks up with his girlfriend

digs a grave

dies along with pretty much everyone else

Matthew Jocelyn



Listen and check _____

Cori Ellison



3. Read out the lines. Then listen to snippets and tell who is who:

Who is an actor and director? Who is a lecturer in Harvard?

Who is an opera dramaturg? Who is an opera singer?

A

B

C

D

Try to mark the lines with the initials of the correspondent speaker: **AC** for Allan Clayton, **SW** for Samuel West, **CE** for Cori Ellison, and **JW** for Jeffrey Wilson

It was great fun reconfiguring it into operatic form. ____

What the hell is a preceptor? ____

I played Hamlet for a year and three days for the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford on Avon. ____



Samuel West



Jeffrey Wilson

And in a way, trying to catch the spirit of it without necessarily the letter of it. ____

I'd never sung a role that big before, and of course I said "yes" straight away. ____

And our version was very long, it was four hours. ____

And lo and behold, every semester *Hamlet* just teaches itself.

I'd actually met Brett at a festival in Slovenia, bizarrely. ____

And we actually advertised it in the program as three hours and 55 minutes. ____



Allan Clayton

And his first act when we first met was to put a can of beer in my hand. ____

Hamlet doesn't need Jeff Wilson in order for it to be a successful text, much to my devastation. ____

And it was a bit like selling something at \$9.99. ____

And it was a real love-fest too, everybody got along, which is kind of amazing in the scheme of things. ____

So I knew we were going to be very good friends. ____

Alright, off we go to Denmark and straight into the heart of Elsinore, the castle where all of the drama unfolds in Brett Dean's *Hamlet*.

4. Try to fill in the gaps with prepositions. Listen to the synopsis and check

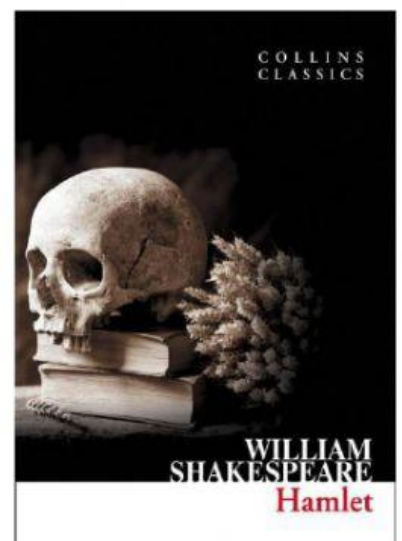
So, Hamlet is the young prince of Denmark. His father was the previous king of Denmark who died _____ mysterious circumstances. And, the present king is his father's brother, Hamlet's uncle Claudius. Hamlet has witnessed the wedding of his mother ____ his uncle.

Which is quite upsetting ____ him ____ good reason.

So when, when we first meet Hamlet, he is suicidally depressed

He's been visited ____ the ghost of his dad.

A famous warrior, who may be a devil.





Who's told him that he was murdered by his, his brother, the new king.

And, urges Hamlet ____ revenge.

And Hamlet, a famous worrier, who's studied philosophy ____ Wittenberg goes

- "Revenge? We don't do that sort of thing anymore." I've always thought of it

as *Gladiator* ____ Woody Allen playing Russell Crowe, he's miscast.

What is the difference between *warrior* and *worrier*?

5. Try to find the correct place in the transcript for each collocation. Listen and check

vacant stare

the daughter of Polonius

what the relationship is

pompous court official

pursuing of revenge

a spy for them

And then, we meet, his love interest, Ophelia, who is _____ ,
who's this sort of _____ .

She's smart. She's confident, she's courteous, she's kind. She's in love with
Hamlet or, or she thinks she was in love with Hamlet or they were
in love and, and they don't quite know _____
anymore.

Because through Hamlet's obsessive _____, he
alienates and ignores Ophelia rather badly.

There's been a conversation between Ophelia, Polonius, her dad,
and the king and queen all saying, you know, that Hamlet's lost his mind. He's
gone mad. We see him walking around the palace with this sort of _____.
And Polonius has then told Ophelia that she will basically become _____ ,
to understand what's really going on with Hamlet.



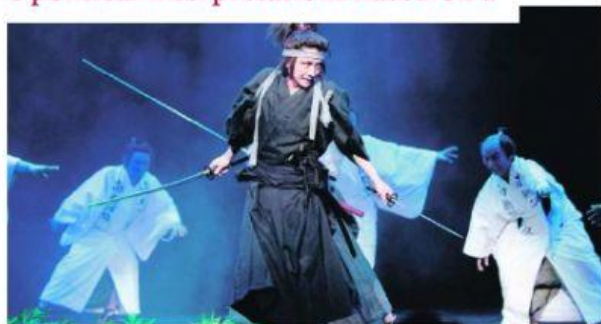
6. Read these reviews on two different productions of Hamlet. Can you find in the picture each of the two? Who is X? Who is Y?



Sardonic and volatile, **X's** Hamlet was so graceful that at times he seemed almost to dance across the stage. The idea of seeing Dr Who in the flesh brought schoolchildren thronging into Gregory Doran's modern-dress production for the RSC. What they

saw was a japester who pushed himself squealing along on a caster chair, a young man sunk in a melancholy dream and a prince of parody, a compulsive mimic who kept becoming someone other than himself. This was a Hamlet who continually played with the idea that wit can look like witlessness. And vice versa.

For sheer excitement, the 1964 Russian film directed by Grigori Kozintsev is hard to beat. **Y's** strong, disgusted prince was utterly of a piece with Kozintsev's political interpretation. Based on a translation by Pasternak, with music by Shostakovich, much of the action was set outside, with crashing waves, battlements and a large cast of underlings. For non-Russian speakers, the delivery of the verse ceased to be the point. What became clear was something often missing from more personally inflected interpretations: the sense that Hamlet's actions, or lack of them, have weighty public consequences.



Find in the excerpts above words matching following definitions:

liable to change rapidly and unpredictably, especially for the worse (adj) _____

one who japes; a jester or prankster (n) _____

filling or be present in a place or area (V-ing) _____

the other way round (2 words) _____

absolutely (adverb) _____

people lower in status or rank (noun, pl) _____

stopped matter (5 words) _____