

LISTENING

To be or not to be

Listen and answer the questions.

Part 1

Part 2

Part 3

What problem did Amber have as a girl in the 16th century?

How did she solve this problem?

What play is being auditioned?

What acting experience does Amber tell the man she has?

When Shakespeare first meets Amber, what does he say about her clothes?

As Amber reads the lines of Juliet, what shocks Shakespeare?

What does Amber tell Shakespeare her name is?

How does this name help Shakespeare to write his 'favourite' line?

To be, or not to be ... a famous soliloquy

A soliloquy is a device often used in drama when a character speaks to himself or herself about his or her thoughts and feelings. Shakespeare was famous for using this device regularly in his writing. The 'To be, or not to be' soliloquy in Hamlet is his most famous and talked about soliloquy. It is so famous because it is about a deep contemplation on existence and why we choose to live or die and the fear of death and what may follow.

Read the simplified version of the soliloquy below. As you read, consider the importance of the words.

Hamlet: *[To himself]*

To be, or not to be: that is the question.
What must I do? Shall I decide to live or die?
Do I have strength enough to go on fighting –
To overcome the problems that I face?
If I kill my uncle, my own death will follow his,
Then why not kill myself and make an end?
If died now, then I would sleep forever,
My troubles ended in the sleep of death.
But when we sleep, we dream.
How terrible those dreams of death might be!
The fear of what comes after death is greater
Than the fears of life we know.
So fear of life and death confuse my thinking.
I cannot yet decide what I should do.



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