

Can you remember the plot of *Hamlet*?

Have you ever read or watched the play?

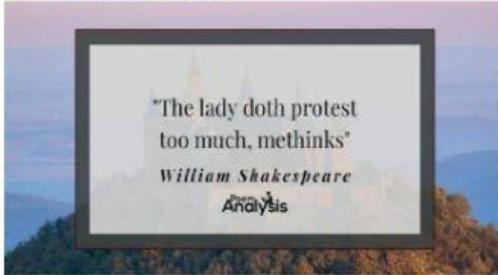
Did you like it?

Can you remember any quotes?



“To thine own self be true.”

-Polonius 1.3



“Though this be madness, yet there is method in ‘t.”

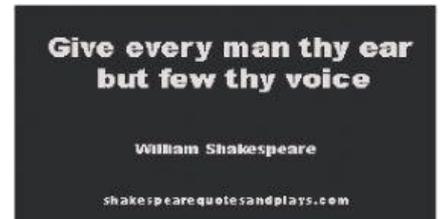
-Polonius 2.2

“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?



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. \_\_

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.

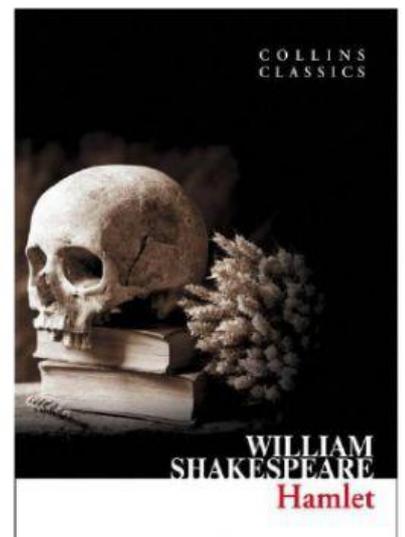
So when, when we first meet Hamlet, he is suicidally depressed

He's been visited \_\_\_ the ghost of his dad.

A famous warrior, who may be a devil.



*Allan Clayton*





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.



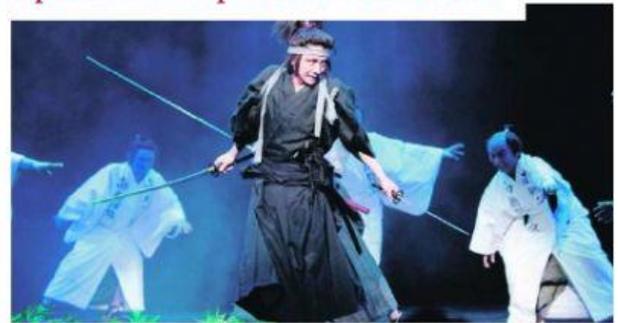
6. Read these reviews on two different productions of Hamlet. Can you find in the picture each of the two? Who is X? Who is Y?



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) \_\_\_\_\_