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University of North Carolina at Charlotte



Hamlet

by William Shakespeare

Adapted by UNC Charlotte-General Curriculum Access Projects

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Hamlet Vocabulary

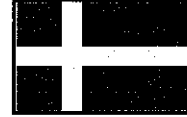
Act 1



Hamlet



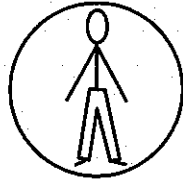
castle



Denmark



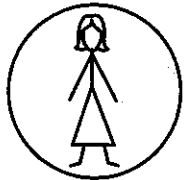
upset



father



king



mother



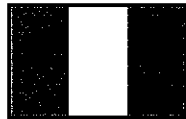
queen



Claudius



sad



France



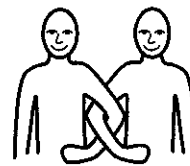
upset



Horatio



ghost



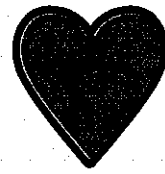
friend



poison



secret



loves

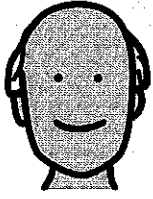


Ophelia



angry

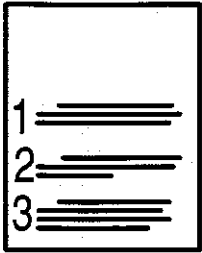
Act 2



Polonius

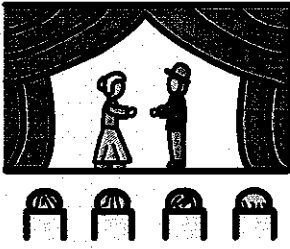


Laertes

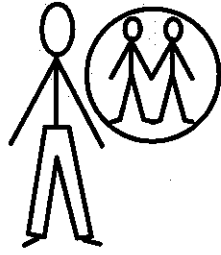


plan

Act 3



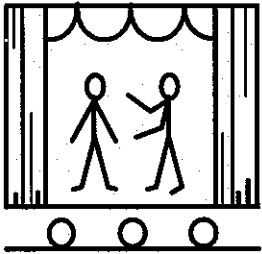
play



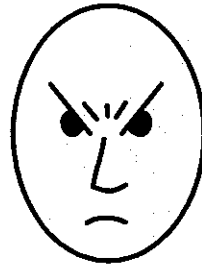
uncle



truth

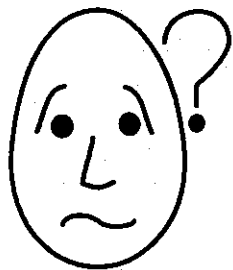


actors

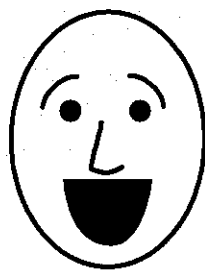


angry

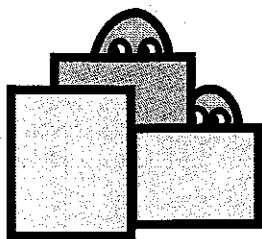
Act 3



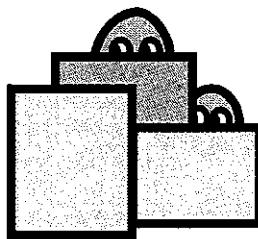
confused



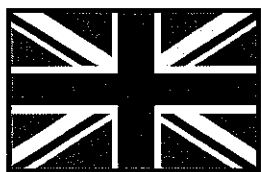
surprised



hide



sneaky

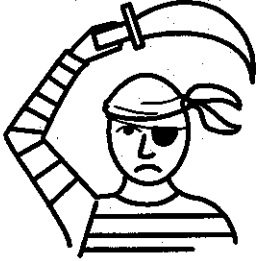


England



Act

4



pirates



cut

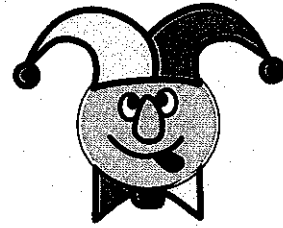
Act 5



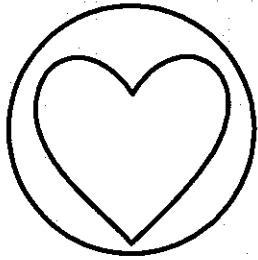
graveyard



skull



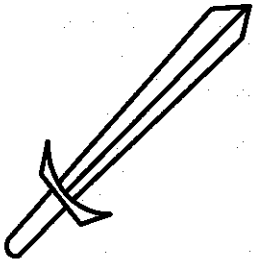
jester



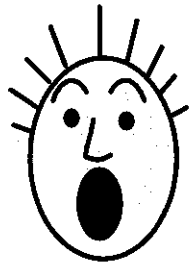
life



death



sword



shocked



Hamlet by William Shakespeare

Introduction



Hamlet is a play about a prince named Hamlet. He lived a



long time ago. He lives in a castle in Denmark. The name of the



castle is Elsinore. Hamlet's father, the king, has died. The play



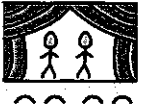
begins on the walls of the castle. The walls have a special place for



guards to stand. The guards keep the castle safe. The guards are



talking about a ghost.



Act I Scene 1 : On the castle platform

It is time for the night guards to change shifts. Shifts are times that

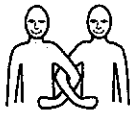


people work. Marcellus and Horatio come to the platform. A platform is

a place where guards stand. They watch out for people that may want



to sneak up on the castle at night. Marcellus is an army officer and



Horatio is a friend of Hamlet. They have come to watch the castle

with Barnardo. They have come because Barnardo has seen a ghost!



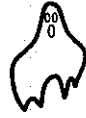
Barnardo wants Horatio to see the ghost, too.



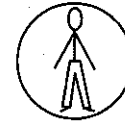
A ghost is in the castle.



Horatio and Marcellus ask Barnardo if the ghost has appeared yet.



Barnardo starts to say no, then the ghost appears! Horatio, Marcellus,



and Barnardo think that the ghost looks like Hamlet's father, the late



king. Late king means the king that has died. The ghost is

dressed like a soldier.



A ghost is in the castle.



Horatio tries to talk to the ghost. The ghost does not speak. Then,



the ghost goes away. Horatio tries to figure out why the ghost of



the late king has come to the castle. He wants to find out if the



ghost has a message for them.



A ghost is in the castle.



The ghost appears one more time. Then, the sun begins to come up



and the ghost goes away. Horatio says that he must tell prince



Hamlet about the ghost. Prince Hamlet is very upset about the death



of his father. Prince Hamlet must know about the ghost that



looks like his father.



A ghost is in the castle.



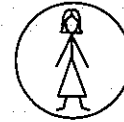
2



Act 1 Scene 2: In the castle



Barnardo, Marcellus, and Horatio go to find Hamlet in the castle. They



know that he will be in the castle with his mother, Queen Gertrude,



and his uncle, the new King Claudius. They go into the stateroom. The



stateroom is the big room where the king and queen see people.



Barnardo, Marcellus, and Horatio see the king and queen enter the



stateroom. They are ready to speak to other people. Hamlet is in a



corner by himself. Hamlet is upset because his father, the King, died.



Hamlet is very upset.



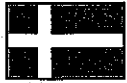
Hamlet is also angry at his mother, the Queen. She has remarried



his father's brother, Claudius. She and Claudius were married just two



months after Hamlet's father died. Hamlet's uncle is now the King



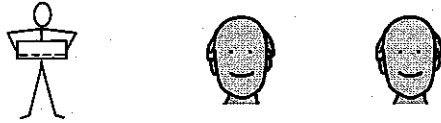
of Denmark.



Hamlet is very upset.



Claudius has an advisor. An advisor is someone who helps make



decisions. His advisor's name is Polonius. Polonius has a son named



Laertes. Laertes goes to school in France. Laertes came home when



Claudius became King. He wanted to show Claudius his loyalty. Now,



Laertes wants to go back to school. He must ask permission from his



father and the King. Polonius tells the king that he gives his



permission. The king also gives his permission. The king then



sees Hamlet by himself.



Hamlet is very upset.



The new king and the queen act worried about Hamlet. He is



always in a sad mood. They think he should stop being sad. They



want him to get on with his life. Claudius tells Hamlet that he must



prepare to be a king someday. He cannot be sad all of the time.



Being sad might show people that he is weak. He says that this is

the reason that he and Gertrude were married so soon after the king's



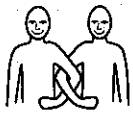
death. They did not want other countries to see them sad about the



late King Hamlet's death. Hamlet does not trust Claudius.



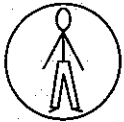
Hamlet is very upset.



Hamlet's friend, Horatio, finds him. Hamlet asks him why he is at the



castle. Horatio says that he came for the funeral of the late king,



Hamlet's father. Then, Hamlet makes a mean joke about staying for his



mother's wedding to the new king, Claudius. Horatio sees that Hamlet



misses his father. Then, Horatio tells Hamlet that he saw a ghost in



the castle. He tells Hamlet that the ghost looked like his father.



Hamlet wants to see the ghost. Hamlet misses his father.



Hamlet is very upset.



Act 1 Scene 3 :Polonius, Laertes, and Ophelia



Laertes gets ready to go back to school in France. He says goodbye



to his sister, Ophelia. He loves Ophelia very much. He tells her that



Hamlet cannot ever marry her. He is a prince and she is just a



servant. He says to be careful. Ophelia believes that Hamlet loves her.



Laertes does not want Ophelia to be hurt.



Ophelia loves Hamlet.



Laertes father, Polonius, Likes to make many speeches. He gives Laertes

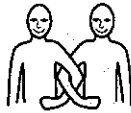


some advice before he leaves for France. He warns him to be

careful of what he says and does. He tells him not to dress too

fancily because clothes "oft make the man." He tells him not to borrow

or lend money. He tells his son that sometimes you will lose the



money and the friend. "This above all," he says, "to thine own self be



true!" This means, always be yourself. After Laertes leaves, Ophelia tells



her father that she loves Hamlet.



Ophelia loves Hamlet.



Act 1 Scene 4: The castle platform



That night, Hamlet meets with Horatio and Marcellus to see the ghost.



Hamlet hears the music of the trumpets. The trumpets are a sign of



fancy dinners and special occasions. Claudius likes to have the trumpets



play. Hamlet thinks this is showing off. Hamlet thinks this shows other



countries that Denmark is weak. The ghost appears. Marcellus says,



"Something is rotten in the state of Denmark." The ghost moves his



hand to ask Hamlet to follow him. The ghost wants to speak to



Hamlet alone. The ghost returns.



Marcellus and Horatio do not want Hamlet to go alone. They think that the



ghost may trick Hamlet. They think that the ghost may lead Hamlet



to hurt himself. They think that the ghost may lead Hamlet to jump off



a cliff or into the sea. Hamlet does not listen to them. Hamlet follows



the ghost to another part of the platform. He wants to hear what the



ghost has to say to him.



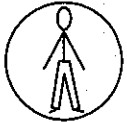
The ghost returns.



Act 1 Scene 5: Another part of the platform



The ghost tells Hamlet that he is the ghost of Hamlet's dead



father. He says that Claudius killed him on purpose. He tells Hamlet



that Claudius put poison in his ear while he slept. Claudius stole his



crown and his wife, the queen.



Hamlet listens to the ghost.



Then, the ghost tells Hamlet that he must "avenge" his death. Avenge



means to get back at someone for doing something bad. The ghost



wants Hamlet to tell people that Claudius killed him. The ghost wants



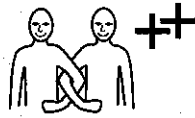
Hamlet to leave Gertrude alone. He does not want anything bad to



happen to Queen Gertrude.



Hamlet listens to the ghost.



Then, Hamlet hears his friends calling to him. The ghost goes



away. Marcellus and Horatio find Hamlet. They ask him to tell them



about the ghost. Hamlet does not tell them the whole story. He asks

them not to tell anyone what they saw. Marcellus goes away. Then,



Hamlet tells Horatio that he will pretend to be mad so that he can

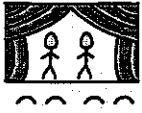


spy on Claudius and Gertrude. In this play, "mad" means that someone

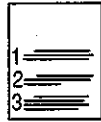
cannot control the way they act anymore.



Hamlet listens to the ghost. 17



Act 2 Scene 1: Polonius' House



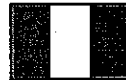
Polonius has a plan. He gives letters and money to his messenger,



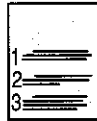
Reynoldo. He wants Reynoldo to take the letters and money to Laertes



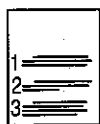
in France. Then, he tells the messenger to spy on Laertes. Polonius wants



to know how Laertes is behaving in France.



Polonius has a plan.



Polonius has another plan. He told Ophelia not to answer any of



Hamlet's notes. He told Ophelia to pretend that she does not like Hamlet.



Then, Ophelia tells Polonius that Hamlet came to visit her. She said that



his clothes looked very messy. She said that Hamlet was not making



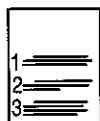
sense when he spoke to her. Polonius thinks that Hamlet is upset about



Ophelia. He thinks that Hamlet is mad. Polonius will tell Claudius that



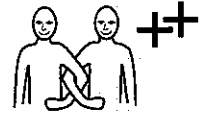
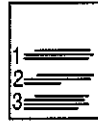
Hamlet is mad.



Polonius has a plan.



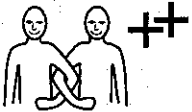
Act 2 - Scene 2: Elsinore Castle



The king and queen have a plan. They invite two old friends of



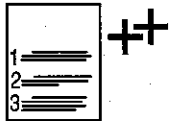
Hamlet named Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to the castle. They ask the



friends to spy on Hamlet for them. They want to know how Hamlet



behaves with others in the castle.



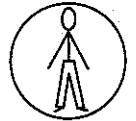
Plans are made in the castle.



Polonius tells the king and queen that Hamlet is acting mad. He



says that it is because Ophelia will not see him anymore. The queen is

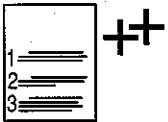


upset with Polonius. She believes that Hamlet is upset about his father's

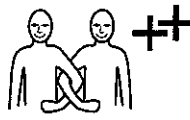
death. She hopes that Rosencrantz and Guildenstern can tell her more



about Hamlet.



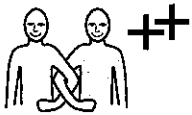
Plans are made in the castle.



Hamlet is happy to see his old friends. He asks them why they have



come to the castle. He calls the castle his prison. First, his



friends do not tell Hamlet that they are spies. Then, they admit to



Hamlet that the king and queen have asked them to spy on



Hamlet. This makes Hamlet upset. Then, a group of players arrive at



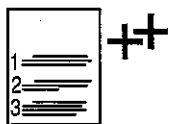
the castle. Players are actors. They traveled to castles to entertain



people. Hamlet is happy to see the players. He gets an idea about a



play.



Plans are made in the castle.



Hamlet talks to the players. He asks them to put on a play. Then,



he says that he will add some lines to the play. Hamlet will add



the new lines to show how his father was killed. He wants to see how



the king behaves when he sees the play. Hamlet says, "The



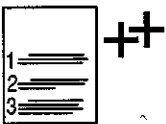
play's the thing. Wherein I'll catch the conscience of the King." If



the king is upset by the play, it will help Hamlet believe what the



ghost told him.



Plans are made in the castle.



Act 3 - Scene 1: A room in the castle



Hamlet is still very upset. When he is alone, he thinks about dying.



He thinks aloud, "To be, or not to be, -that is the question." Hamlet

is worried about what happens after death - "To die. To sleep,

perchance to dream..." He chooses to stay alive.



Hamlet is very confused.



Polonius and the King want to spy on Hamlet. They have Ophelia



walk into the room where Hamlet is thinking. They hide in the room



and listen to Hamlet. Hamlet knows that they are spying on him.



Hamlet pretends to be angry with Ophelia. He knows that the king



and Polonius asked Ophelia to help them spy on him. Hamlet tells



Ophelia that he does not love her. He calls her "two-faced". This



makes Ophelia very upset.



Hamlet is very confused.



Polonius and the King hear how Hamlet talks to Ophelia. They think



that he must be mad to say such things. The King wants to send



Hamlet away. He thinks that Hamlet knows about his spying. Polonius



wants to spy on Hamlet one more time. He wants to hide in



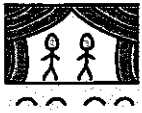
Queen Gertrude's room to hear Hamlet talk to his mother. The King



agrees. Hamlet does not trust the King or Polonius.



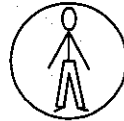
Hamlet is very confused.



Act 3 -Scene 2: A hall in the castle



Hamlet told the players to put on a play about a king that was



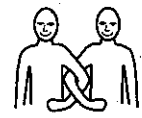
poisoned. This is how Hamlet's father was murdered. Then, the play



is ready! Hamlet invites his uncle, Claudius to see the play. The



king and queen agree to go. Hamlet wants to see how the



king acts when he sees the play. He asks his friend, Horatio, to



watch the king's reaction to the play.



Hamlet will learn the truth.



Hamlet tells the actors to start the play. The king watches the



play. He gets very upset. Then, he gets up and runs out of the



play! Hamlet sees Claudius run out. He sees that Claudius is upset.



Now he knows that the ghost was telling the truth. Hamlet knows



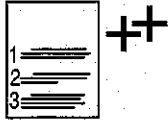
that the new king, Claudius, killed his father.



Hamlet learns the truth.



Act 3 - Scene 3 : A room in the castle



Hamlet plans to kill Claudius. First, he goes to find Claudius. He



finds Claudius praying. Hamlet thinks about what will happen after he kills



the king. He will be killed, too. Hamlet tries to think about what the



ghost asked him to do. He wants to avenge his father's death.



Hamlet made a promise to his father.



Hamlet waits. He believes that if he kills him while he is praying, he



will send him to heaven. He does not want to kill Claudius while he is



praying. Hamlet will wait to kill Claudius. He wants to avenge his father's

death.



Hamlet made a promise to his father.



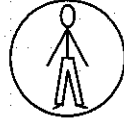
Act 3 - Scene 4: Gertrude's Bedroom



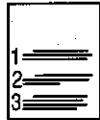
Polonius and Claudius heard what Hamlet said to Ophelia. Polonius thinks



that Hamlet is upset about Ophelia. The King thinks that Hamlet



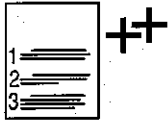
knows how he killed his father. They both think that Hamlet must go



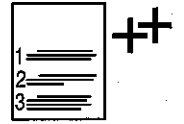
away. They make plans to hurt Hamlet.



Polonius and Claudius are very sneaky.



Claudius plans to send Hamlet away to England. He tells Rosencrantz



and Guildenstern to take Hamlet to England. Then, the Claudius plans



to have Hamlet killed in England.



Polonius and Claudius are very sneaky.



Polonius tells Hamlet that the queen wishes to see him right away



Polonius plans to spy on Hamlet when he goes to see his mother,



the queen.



Polonius and Claudius are very sneaky.



Hamlet goes to see his mother. She is worried about the Hamlet.



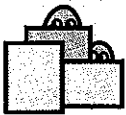
Hamlet is upset that she married Claudius. He wants her to see that



Claudius is a bad person. Hamlet gets very angry. Then, he sees the



ghost again. The ghost reminds him not to hurt Gertrude. Polonius is



hiding behind a curtain. He is afraid that Hamlet will hurt Gertrude. He



calls out for help. Hamlet hears someone behind the curtain. He stabs



him with his sword, thinking it is Claudius. Hamlet kills Polonius!



Polonius and Claudius are very sneaky.



Act 4 - Scene 1 : A room in the castle



The queen tells the Claudius that Hamlet has killed Polonius. The



queen says that Hamlet has gone mad. Claudius believes Hamlet



was trying to kill him. He tells the queen that they must make up a



story about Polonius. Then, Claudius says that Hamlet must leave the



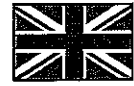
country. He tells the queen that this will keep Hamlet safe.



Claudius tells another lie.



Claudius sends Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to get Hamlet and



Polonius' body. Claudius tells Hamlet that he must go to England.



Hamlet gets ready to leave for England. Hamlet believes that Claudius



has arranged for him to be killed in order to protect his secret.



Claudius tells another lie.



Act 4- Scene 2: Another room in the castle



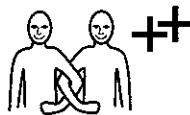
Rosencrantz and Guildenstern find Hamlet. Hamlet knows that they are



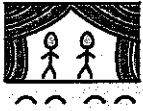
following the king's orders. Hamlet does not tell them what he did with



Polonius. He makes fun of them.



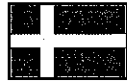
Hamlet is mad at his old friends.



Act 4- Scene 3 : Another room in the castle



Claudius tells his court that he cannot put Hamlet in jail for killing



Polonius. The people of Denmark love Hamlet. Putting him in jail



would cause "a riot". Claudius makes it look like he cares about Hamlet.



Claudius tells another lie.



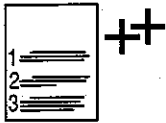
Guildenstern and the guards bring Hamlet to Claudius. Hamlet will not



tell what he did with Polonius. Claudius tells Hamlet that he is sending



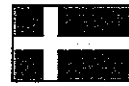
him to England. He says that he will be safe in England. Then, Claudius



makes plans with the King of England to kill Hamlet.



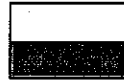
Claudius tells another lie.



Act 4 -Scene 4: A plain in Denmark



On the way to England, Hamlet sees an army from Norway. They are



on their way to another country, Poland, to take some land. Hamlet sees

how the army is ready to die for what they believe. He wonders why he



cannot do what the ghost asked him to do. He knows that he must



get back to Denmark to avenge his father's death.



Hamlet must return to Denmark.



Act 4- Scene 5: Elsinore castle



A man in the king's court goes to see the queen. He tells her that



Ophelia is acting strangely. First, she was upset about the mean things



that Hamlet said to her. This made her sad and quiet. Then, she was

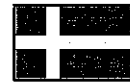


very sad when her father, Polonius, died. He says that now, Ophelia

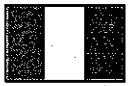
cannot talk to people or control her actions.



Ophelia is very sad.



Laertes learns that his father has died. He returns to Denmark from



France. He goes to see Claudius. Then, Claudius tells Laertes that



Hamlet killed Polonius. Next, Laertes sees Ophelia. Ophelia is so upset



that she does not know her own brother. Laertes blames Hamlet for



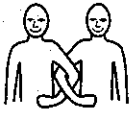
making his sister so upset.



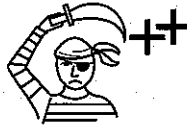
Ophelia is very sad.



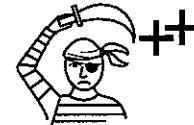
Act 4- Scene 6 : A room in the castle



Hamlet's friend, Horatio, receives a letter from Hamlet. He learns that



Hamlet's ship was attacked by pirates. Hamlet escaped by hiding



on the pirates' ship. Hamlet made a deal with the Pirates. They



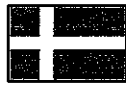
agreed to take him back to Denmark.



Claudius wants to kill Hamlet.



Then, Claudius receives a letter from Hamlet. Hamlet tells Claudius that



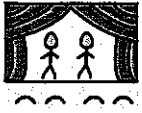
he is returning to Denmark. Claudius is upset that Hamlet is coming



back to the castle.



Claudius wants to kill Hamlet.



Act 4- Scene 7: A room in the castle



The queen learns that Ophelia is dead. Then, she tells Laertes and



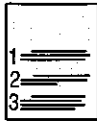
Claudius that Ophelia is dead. She tells them that Ophelia drowned herself



in a glassy stream. Laertes is very upset.



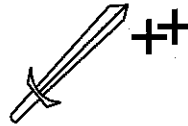
Claudius and Laertes want to kill Hamlet.



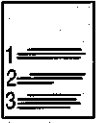
Claudius has a plan. He tells Laertes that they can kill Hamlet. They



will make it look like an accident. Claudius will set up a fencing match.



Fencing is a name for fighting with swords. Laertes' sword will be



dipped in poison. A small cut on Hamlet will kill him. If this plan



does not work, Claudius will poison a cup of wine. Then, he will give it



to Hamlet.



Claudius and Laertes want to kill Hamlet.



Act 5 - Scene 1 A Graveyard



Hamlet meets Horatio in a graveyard. Two workers are digging a grave.



They dig up a skull. Hamlet knew the person in the grave. His name



was Yorick. He was a court jester. A jester is someone who



entertains people in the castle. Hamlet thinks more about death. He



says, "Alas, poor Yorick. I knew him, Horatio." He says that

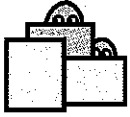
everyone must die. It does not matter if you are rich or poor.



Hamlet thinks about life and death.



Then, a group of people enter the graveyard. Hamlet and Horatio



hide. Hamlet finds out that the people have come to bury Ophelia.



Hamlet is very upset to learn that Ophelia has died. He stays hidden.



Hamlet thinks about life and death.



At the graveside, the Queen offers "Sweets for the sweet" and sprinkles



flowers on Ophelia's body. She wishes that Ophelia could have been



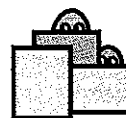
Hamlet's wife. Laertes gets angry and says that Hamlet broke Ophelia's



heart and killed their father. These things made her so upset that



she drowned herself. Laertes jumps into the grave. He wants to be



buried with his sister. Hamlet comes out of hiding and leaps into



the grave. He tells Laertes that he really loved Ophelia. He is upset

that she died.



Hamlet thinks about life and death.



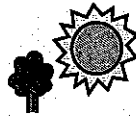
Laertes and Hamlet begin to fight. Then, they are separated.



Hamlet sees Claudius. He knows that Claudius is the cause of everyone's



sadness. He knows that he must kill Claudius. He says, "The cat will



mew, and the dog will have his day!" This means that Claudius

will be punished for the bad things he has done.



Hamlet thinks about life and death.



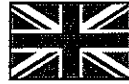
2



Act 5 -Scene 2: A hall in the castle



Hamlet shows Horatio a letter he found. The letter was from Claudius.



The letter asks the King of England to kill Hamlet when Hamlet gets



to England. He tells Horatio that he wants to kill Claudius for murdering



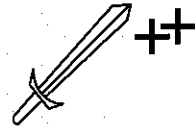
his father, marrying his mother, and plotting to have him killed.



Claudius is evil.



A messenger tells Hamlet that Claudius has planned a fencing match.



Claudius wants to have Hamlet and Laertes fight with swords. This



was a sport that people enjoyed watching. Before the match, Hamlet



apologizes to Laertes for their fight in the graveyard. He hopes for a



fair fight. Laertes knows that Claudius has planned to poison his



sword. He knows that the plan is to kill Hamlet.



Claudius is evil.



Claudius reminds Laertes that his sword is tipped with poison. He also

reminds him that he has poisoned the cup of wine that he will offer



Hamlet. Laertes and Hamlet begin their sword fight. Hamlet strikes the



first two hits. Claudius does not want to wait any longer. He offers



Hamlet the cup with the poisoned wine. Hamlet asks him to wait



a little while. When Claudius sets the cup down, the queen takes it



and drinks. She is poisoned. The queen becomes very sick.



Claudius is evil.



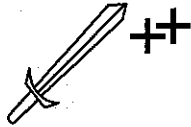
Laertes is shocked that the queen has been poisoned. He thinks that



he should stop fighting with Hamlet. Then, Hamlet challenges him.



Laertes cuts Hamlet with the poisoned sword. Then, they drop



and switch the swords. Hamlet then cuts Laertes with the



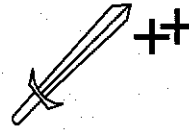
poisoned sword. Now, Hamlet and Laertes are both poisoned!



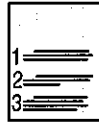
Claudius is evil.



The queen warns Hamlet of the poisoned drink. Then, she dies.



Laertes tells Hamlet about the poisoned swords. He tells Hamlet



that it was Claudius' plan to poison him with the sword or the drink.



Hamlet stabs Claudius with the poisoned sword. Then, he makes



Claudius drink the poisoned wine. Claudius dies. Laertes and Hamlet



forgive each other as they die. Horatio is so upset that he tries to drink



the poison. Hamlet stops him. He wants Horatio to tell the truth about



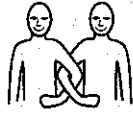
all that has happened because of Claudius. Then, Hamlet dies.



Claudius was evil.



Now, Claudius, Queen Gertrude, Laertes and Hamlet are all dead.



Horatio cries about his friend saying, "Goodnight sweet prince, and



flights of angels sing thee to thy rest." Horatio carries Hamlet away,

a hero.



The End