

# Hamlet

## William Shakespeare

### A Before Reading

1 *Shakespeare's tragedy Hamlet, is one of the most famous plays ever written. (page 6)*

Have you read or seen this play before?  
 Have you read or seen any other plays by Shakespeare?

2 Find words for the definitions below in the wordsearch. The first letter for each word is given. One of the words is done as an example.

- A ceremony when a person dies: a *funeral* \_\_\_\_\_
- To hurt someone who has hurt you: to get r \_\_\_\_\_
- To show that you feel sad about someone's death: to m \_\_\_\_\_
- A woman whose husband has died: a w \_\_\_\_\_
- To make someone believe something that is not true: to t \_\_\_\_\_ someone
- To promise to do something: to s \_\_\_\_\_ (swore, sworn)
- To make people aware of something or to uncover something: to r \_\_\_\_\_
- Something that harms or kills a person if they drink it: p \_\_\_\_\_
- To think that someone is responsible for something bad: to b \_\_\_\_\_ someone
- To die in water: to d \_\_\_\_\_

H	A	F	M	B	U	J	A	U	S
U	S	T	O	T	R	I	C	K	U
D	F	F	U	N	E	R	A	L	D
R	P	N	R	A	V	L	S	I	B
O	O	R	N	R	E	V	E	A	L
W	I	D	O	W	N	I	N	D	A
N	S	N	B	E	G	N	I	G	M
E	O	I	S	W	E	A	R	R	E
A	N	M	O	R	N	D	C	T	O

3 a Look at the pictures 1–5 from the play. Match the pictures to the sentences a–e.







- a Hamlet and Laertes fight at a funeral. \_\_\_\_\_
- b Hamlet is unhappy about his mother's marriage. \_\_\_\_\_
- c Everyone watches a play about a king who is a murderer. \_\_\_\_\_
- d Hamlet kills a man. \_\_\_\_\_
- e Hamlet speaks to the ghost of his father. \_\_\_\_\_

b In what order do you think these events will happen?

### B While Reading

4 Look at the pictures below of some of the main characters in the story. Choose three descriptions from the box for each character.

pretty      confused      loyal      dishonest      supportive      greedy for power  
 calm      sad      frightened      innocent      doesn't trust people      angry

5 *Hamlet* is a tragedy. Almost everyone dies. Fill in the table below with information about who dies, how they die and who or what kills them.

Who dies?	How do they die?	Who kills them?
King Hamlet	Poisoned	His brother, Claudius

- 6 *I have seen many things: murder of kings and princes,  
Death caused by accident and unnatural acts.  
All I shall tell.*  
(Horatio, page 82)

You are Horatio. Write a letter to the new king of Denmark explaining what has happened.

*It began when Hamlet met the ghost of his father...*

## C After Reading

- 7 Hamlet's meeting with the ghost of his father is the beginning of the action in this play.  
Do you believe in ghosts? Have you ever seen a ghost?  
Are there any famous ghost stories in your country?
- 8 The following are all sayings about revenge. Which one do you agree with most and why?

'Before you embark on a journey of revenge, dig two graves.' (Confucius, Chinese philosopher)

'The best revenge is to be unlike him who performed the injury.'  
(Marcus Aurelius, Roman Emperor)

'Revenge is sweet.'

'In revenge and in love, woman is more barbarous than man.'  
(Nietzsche, German philosopher)  
(*'barbarous'* = cruel, unpleasant)

- 9 *A player's words can change the way men think.* (Hamlet, page 30)  
Do you agree with Hamlet?  
Have you ever thought about things differently because of a play or a film?  
Has this play influenced the way you think?