

HAMLET

READING COMPREHENSION

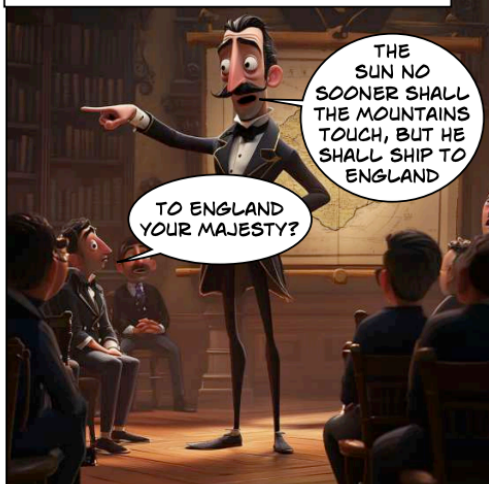
ACT 4

YEAR 3 AND 4



AT THE START OF ACT 4, CLAUDIUS IS PRETTY SURE THAT STABBING WAS MEANT FOR HIM. WHAT'S WORSE IS THAT THE DANISH PEOPLE LOVE HAMLET, SO HE CAN'T EVEN PUNISH HIM, - AND HAMLET MIGHT REVEAL WHO KILLED HIS FATHER. BEST TO GET HAMLET OUT OF HERE...

TIME TO START PLOTTING AGAIN...



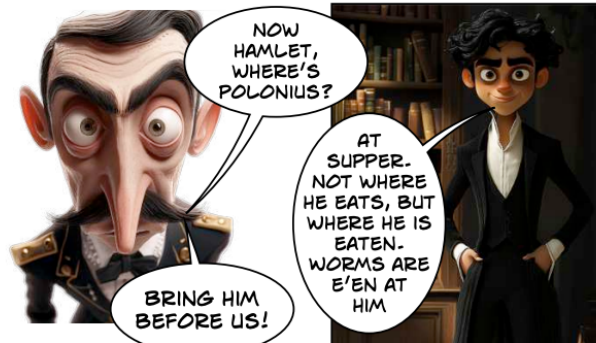
CLAUDIUS IS GOING TO HAVE TO USE ALL HIS CUNNING TO COME UP WITH AN EXPLANATION FOR HOW POLONIUS DIED...



GILDENSTERN RUSHES IN LOOKING WORRIED - HAMLET'S BEHAVIOUR SEEMS TO BE GETTING EVEN STRANGER...



HAMLET HAS HIDDEN POLONIUS'S BODY AND NOBODY KNOWS WHERE IT IS!



1. Why can't Claudius punish Hamlet? Tick TWO boxes

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| The Danish people love Hamlet | <input type="checkbox"/> | Hamlet is a prince | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hamlet might reveal who killed Old Hamlet | <input type="checkbox"/> | Hamlet is innocent | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2. Where is Claudius going to send Hamlet?

3. Is Claudius going to tell everyone that Hamlet killed Polonius?

YES

NO



BUT WHAT NOBODY KNOWS IS THAT IN CLAUDIUS'S PLAN, HAMLET WILL NEVER COME BACK ALIVE!!!

TO ENGLAND, AYE...TO OUR FRIEND UPON THE ENGLISH THRONE AND THE PRESENT DEATH OF HAMLET. DO IT, ENGLAND! FOR LIKE THE HECTIC IN MY BLOOD HE RAGES, AND THOU MUST CURE ME!

ROSENCRANTZ, GUILDENSTERN!

CLAUDIUS HANDS THEM THE LETTER FOR THE ENGLISH KING THAT WILL SEAL HAMLET'S FATE...

WITH HAMLET GONE FROM DENMARK, AND ON HIS WAY TO CERTAIN DEATH IN ENGLAND, CLAUDIUS MIGHT THINK HIS PROBLEMS ARE SOLVED. BUT HE'S SO WRONG.... WHEN WORD REACHES LAERTES IN PARIS THAT POLONIUS, HIS FATHER, IS DEAD, HE RUSHES BACK TO DENMARK, CONVINCED THAT CLAUDIUS IS THE KILLER. NOW HE'S OUTSIDE THE PALACE, DEMANDING JUSTICE!

AND TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, OPHELIA - HER HEART ALREADY BROKEN BY HAMLET - IS OUT OF HER MIND WITH GRIEF FOR HER FATHER...

MY LORD, THIS MISCHANCE OF OLD POLONIUS HATH PIERCED SO THE YOUNG OPHELIA THAT SHE, POOR MAID IS QUITE BEREFT OF WITS

4. Claudius writes a letter to the English king. What does he ask him to do to Hamlet?

5. Where is Laertes when he hears that Polonius has died?

London

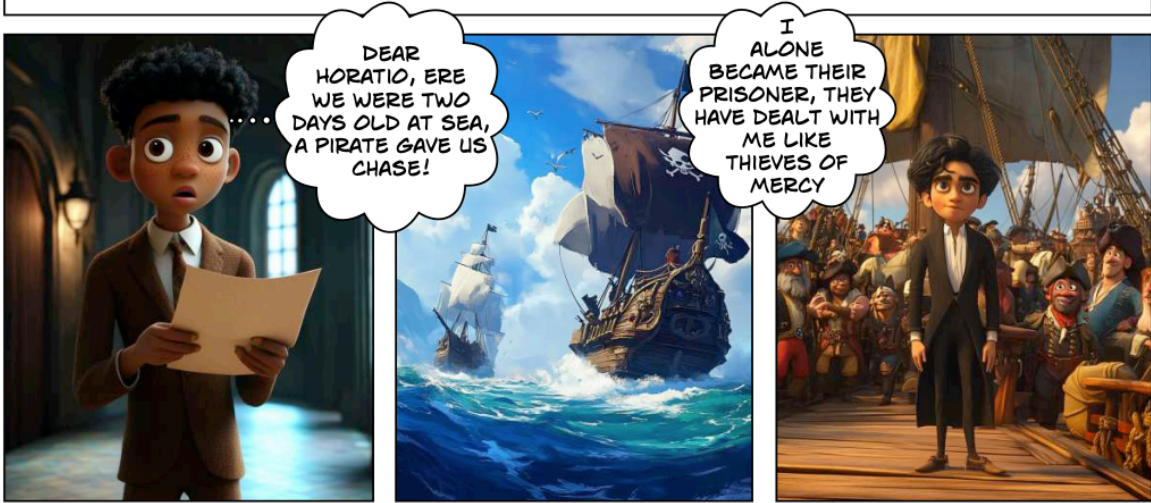
Paris

New York

Denmark

6. Who does Laertes think killed his dad?

LAERTES SEES HIS POOR SISTER GOING MAD AND CLAUDIUS HAS MANAGED SOMEHOW TO CALM HIM DOWN AND GET HIM TO LISTEN. LAST THING I REMEMBER ABOUT HAMLET WAS THAT HE WAS ON HIS WAY TO ENGLAND WITH ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN. THEY HAD LETTERS FOR THE ENGLISH KING THAT TOLD THE KING TO GET RID OF HAMLET, YES? WELL, HERE COMES A PLOT TWIST ABOUT AS BIG AS THEY GET!!! HORATIO RECEIVES A LETTER...



DEAR HORATIO, ERE WE WERE TWO DAYS OLD AT SEA, A PIRATE GAVE US CHASE!

I ALONE BECAME THEIR PRISONER, THEY HAVE DEALT WITH ME LIKE THIEVES OF MERCY

ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN HOLD THEIR COURSE FOR ENGLAND, OF THEM I HAVE MUCH TO TELL THEE, HAMLET X

I HAVE WORDS TO SPEAK IN THINE EAR WILL MAKE THEE DUMB!!!

SO HAMLET WAS CAPTURED BY PIRATES WHO WERE MERCIFUL AND ARE BRINGING HIM BACK TO DENMARK!

7. What does Laertes see happening to his sister?

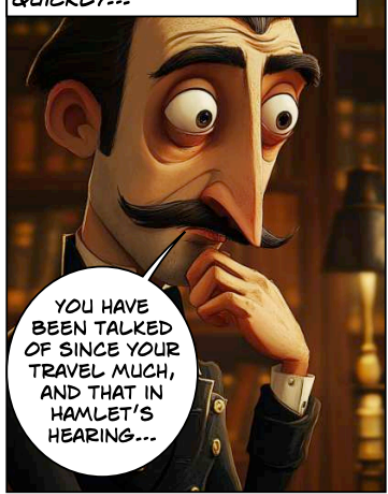

8. Does Laertes still want to kill Claudius?



YES NO

9. What happened to Hamlet on his way to England?

- He fell overboard and drowned
- He was captured by pirates and sold to another ship
- He was captured by pirates who are bringing him back to Denmark
- He met some new friends

10. How do we, the reader, know what has happened to Hamlet?

<p>AS ALWAYS, A PLAN FORMS QUICKLY...</p>  <p>YOU HAVE BEEN TALKED OF SINCE YOUR TRAVEL MUCH, AND THAT IN HAMLET'S HEARING...</p>	<p>CLAUDIUS TELLS LAERTES THAT WHILE HE WAS IN FRANCE, THEY KEPT HEARING ABOUT HOW GOOD HE WAS AT STUFF, ESPECIALLY SWORD FIGHTING, FENCING TO BE PRECISE. NOT ONLY THAT, BUT EVERY TIME HAMLET HEARD ABOUT IT, HE GOT VERY JEALOUS. BECAUSE OF COURSE, HAMLET FANCIES HIMSELF AS AN EXPERT FENCER. MAYBE, SAID CLAUDIUS, JUST MAYBE A COMPETITION COULD BE ARRANGED BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM, JUST FOR SPORT OF COURSE...</p>	 <p>AND FOR THAT PURPOSE I'LL ANOINT MY SWORD, THAT IF I GALL HIM SLIGHTLY IT MAY BE DEATH</p>
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<p>CLAUDIUS REALISES LAERTES IS SAYING THAT HE'LL PUT POISON ON THE BLADE OF HIS SWORD, SO THAT IF HE EVEN SCRATCHES HAMLET, HE'LL DIE! WHAT A CHEAT!!!</p>	 <p>IF THIS SHOULD FAIL, AND HE CALLS FOR A DRINK, I'LL HAVE PREPARED HIM A CHALICE, IF HE BY CHANCE ESCAPE YOUR VENOMED STUCK, OUR PURPOSE MAY HOLD THERE...</p>	<p>CLAUDIUS KNOWS HOW TO USE POISON HIMSELF, NOW HE'S SAYING THAT HE'LL POISON A DRINK SO THAT WHEN HAMLET GETS HOT AND TIRED, HE'LL DRINK THE POISON, DOUBLE CHEAT!!!</p>	<p>GERTRUDE RUSHES IN...</p>  <p>YOUR SISTER'S DROWNED LAERTES!!!</p>
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11. A. What sort of competition does Claudius suggest Laertes and Hamlet should have?

B. What does Laertes say he'll do to his sword?

C. Write down a direct quote from the text that supports your answer

12. What is Claudius going to poison?

A plate of food

A drink

A sword

A cake

13. What news does Gertrude come rushing in with?

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ACT 4
YEAR 3 AND 4
ANSWERS

1. Why can't Claudius punish Hamlet? Tick TWO boxes
The Danish people love Hamlet

Hamlet might reveal who killed Old Hamlet

2. Where is Claudius going to send Hamlet?

England

3. Is Claudius going to tell everyone that Hamlet killed Polonius?

NO

4. Claudius writes a letter to the English king. What does he ask him to do to Hamlet?

Kill him

5. Where is Laertes when he hears that Polonius has died?

Paris

6. Who does Laertes think killed his dad?

Claudius

7. What does Laertes see happening to his sister?

She's going mad

8. Does Laertes still want to kill Claudius?

NO

9. What happened to Hamlet on his way to England?

He was captured by pirates who are bringing him back to Denmark

10. How do we, the reader, know what has happened to Hamlet?

He wrote a letter to Horatio

11. A. What sort of competition does Claudius suggest Laertes and Hamlet should have?

Sword fight/fencing

- B. What does Laertes say he'll do to his sword?

Put poison on it

- C. Write down a direct quote from the text that supports your answer

"And for that purpose I'll anoint my sword, that is I gall him slightly it may be death"

12. What is Claudius going to poison?

A drink

13. What news does Gertrude come rushing in with?

Ophelia has drowned