

**HAMLET**  
**READING COMPREHENSION**  
**ACT 2**  
**YEAR 5 AND 6**

**1. RECAP ON CHARACTERS**

**Draw a line from the character to their description**

Hamlet	Hamlet's mum, recently married to his uncle, Claudius
Laertes	Hamlet's creepy, horrible uncle and now his "new dad"
Ophelia	Hamlet's best friend
Claudius	Polonius' son/Ophelia's brother
Gertrude	Polonius' daughter/ Laerte's sister
Horatio	Claudius' advisor/Ophelia and Laerte's dad
Polonius	Hamlet's dad, who has come back as a ghost to tell Hamlet he was killed by Claudius
Old Hamlet	The title character whose father has been killed and is out to seek revenge

**2. What is Hamlet going to do to try and find out whether it's true that Claudius killed his dad? Tick one box**

He will ask Gertrude, his mum

He will ask Claudius

He will pretend to be mad so he can ask questions

**3. A. Why does Claudius want to “see inside” Hamlet’s head? Write down two reasons**

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**4. Claudius invites Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to Elsinore Castle for a “friendly visit”. What does he really want them to do?**

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**5. How do Rosencrantz and Guildenstern know Hamlet?**

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**6. Who bursts in through the door crying?**

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**7.**

**A. Ophelia says,  
“Alas my Lord, I have been so affrighted”**

**What does the word “affrighted” mean? Tick one box**

Happy

Frightened

Worried

Sick

**B. Write down one synonym for “frightened”**

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**8. A. Why are Rosencrantz and Guildenstern so “shocked”?**

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**B. “*Claudius sounds so concerned that the two friends feel quite worried*”**

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**Do you think that Claudius is worried about Hamlet?  
Give a reason for your answer**

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**9. What do Polonius, Gertrude and Claudius think is driving Hamlet mad? Write one word**

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**10. How did Hamlet know that Rosencrantz and Guildenstern were “up to something”? Tick one box**

Their guilty faces

They went red in the face

They told him

Polonius told him

**14. Who interrupts Hamlet, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern?**

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**15. What does Polonius say to Hamlet? Write a direct quote from the text**

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**16. In Shakespeare's time what was it common for actors to do? (HINT: Read the 'Stuff you need to know' box)**

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**17. What play does Hamlet ask the actors to perform?**

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**18. What is Hamlet's plan for the actors?**

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19. Re read the last page of Act 2 in your comic and complete the sentences below,

A. Polonius is \_\_\_\_\_

B. Claudius is \_\_\_\_\_

C. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern were \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

D. Ophelia is \_\_\_\_\_

20. Do you think Hamlet is doing a good job of pretending to be mad during Act 2? Tick one box and justify your answer below, with reference to the text.

YES

NO

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

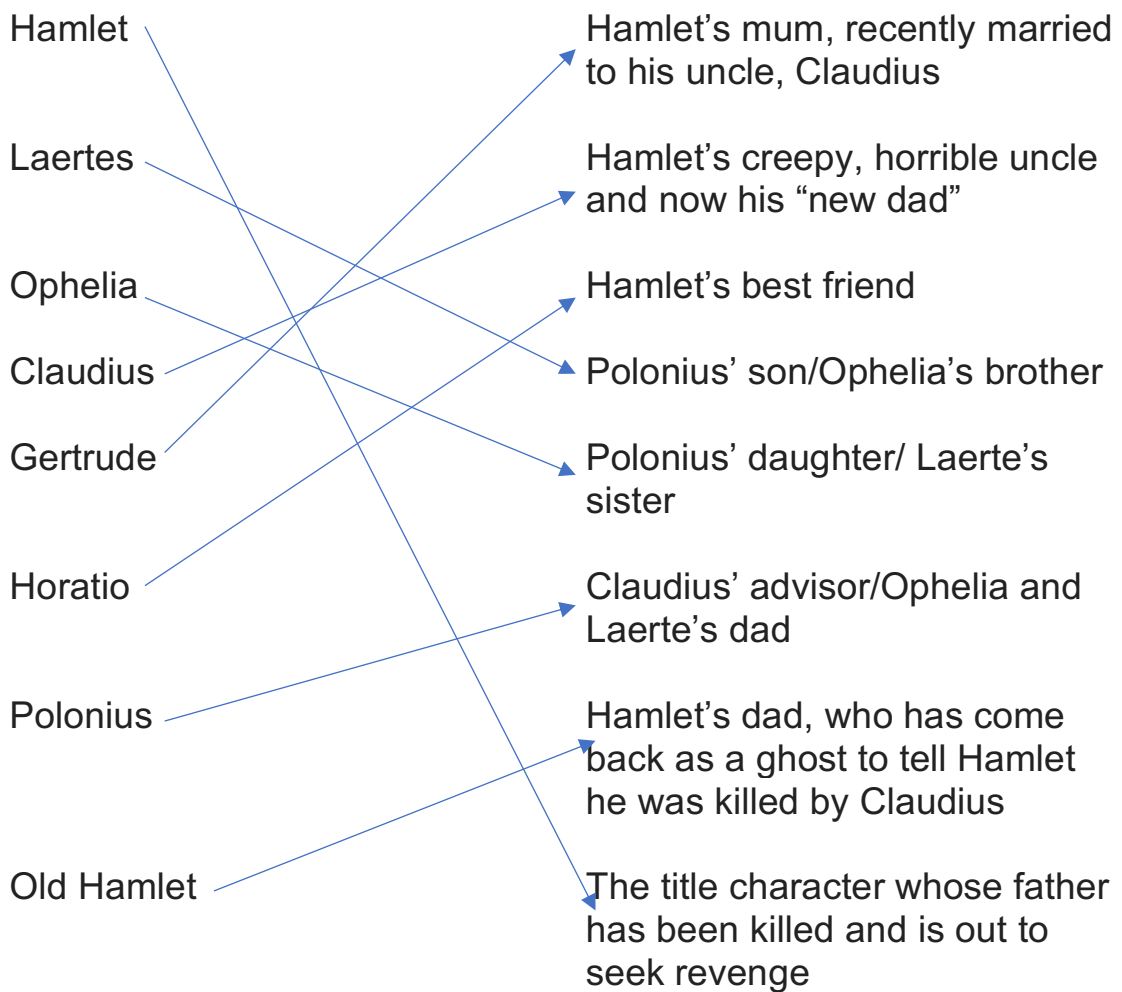
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**HAMLET**  
**READING COMPREHENSION**  
**ACT 2**  
**YEAR 5 AND 6**

**ANSWERS**

**1. RECAP ON CHARACTERS**

**Draw a line from the character to their description**



2. What is Hamlet going to do to try and find out whether it's true that Claudius killed his dad? Tick one box

He will pretend to be mad so he can ask questions

3. A. Why does Claudius want to “see inside” Hamlet’s head? Write down two reasons

To see what is wrong with him

To see if Hamlet suspects him

4. Claudius invites Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to Elsinore Castle for a “friendly visit”. What does he really want them to do?

Spy on Hamlet

5. How do Rosencrantz and Guildenstern know Hamlet?

Friends from college/college friends

6. Who bursts in through the door crying?

Ophelia

7.

A. Ophelia says,

“Alas my Lord, I have been so affrighted”

What does the word “affrighted” mean? Tick one box

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Frightened

B. Write down one synonym for “frightened”

scared/afraid

8. A. Why are Rosencrantz and Guildenstern so “shocked”?

Because it sounds as though Hamlet has changed so much

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C. “*Claudius sounds so concerned that the two friends feel quite worried*”

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Do you think that Claudius is worried about Hamlet?

Give a reason for your answer

Answers will vary but general gist should be that Claudius is not worried about Hamlet but worried about himself!

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9. What do Polonius, Gertrude and Claudius think is driving Hamlet mad? Write one word

LOVE

10. How did Hamlet know that Rosencrantz and Guildenstern were “up to something”? Tick one box

Their guilty faces

14. Who interrupts Hamlet, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern?

Polonius

15. What does Polonius say to Hamlet? Write a direct quote from the text

“My lord, I have news for you” or “Some actors are here my Lord!”

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16. In Shakespeare’s time what was it common for actors to do? (HINT: Read the ‘Stuff you need to know’ box)

Actors would travel around the country performing their plays

17. What play does Hamlet ask the actors to perform?

The Murder of Gonzago

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18. What is Hamlet’s plan for the actors?

He’s rewritten The Murder of Gonzago so that the death scene will look just how the ghost described his own death and he’ll be able to see how Claudius reacts.

19. Re read the last page of Act 2 in your comic and complete the sentences below,

A. Polonius is confused

B. Claudius is plotting.

C. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern were rubbish at their jobs!

D. Ophelia is upset

20. Do you think Hamlet is doing a good job of pretending to be mad during Act 2? Tick one box and justify your answer below, with reference to the text.

Answers will vary but as long as children justify their answer with evidence from the text.