

HAMLET
READING COMPREHENSION
ACT 1
YEAR 5 AND 6

QUESTIONS

1. What was the weather like? Tick one box

Raining Sunny Snowy Freezing

2. Why is everyone nervous? Use a direct quote from the text

3. Where is the story set?

4. Why is Bernardo laughing?

5. Who is Horatio? Tick one box

Francisco's brother Bernardo's friend Hamlet's friend

6. A. Does Horatio believe that the guards have seen a ghost?

YES NO

B. Justify your answer with a direct quote from the text

7. When the ghost does appear who does it look like?

8. “This spirit, dumb to us, will speak to him!”

i. What do they mean “dumb to us”?

ii. Who do they mean by “him”

9. Why is everyone “gathered in the castle throne room”?

10. How long has it been since Old Hamlet died? Tick one box

2 years 2 months 2 hours 2 weeks

11. Re read this conversation between Polonius and Ophelia:

“He hath, my lord, of late, many many tenders of his affection to me” said Ophelia

“Affection, puh! Do you believe his tenders as you call them?” replied Polonius

“With all the vows of heaven” said Ophelia

Which single word shows Polonius’ disgust/disbelief that Hamlet really loves Ophelia?

12. “Hamlet races after the ghost! You’d do the same wouldn’t you? I know you would”.

Do you think you’d do the same?

YES **NO**

Justify your answer below

13. What does the ghost tell Hamlet?

14. Does Hamlet believe the ghost?

YES **NO**

Justify your answer with a quote from the text

HAMLET
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ANSWERS

1. What was the weather like? Tick one box

Freezing

2. Why is everyone nervous? Use a direct quote from the text
“something spooky has been happening”

3. Where is the story set?

Just outside Elsinore Castle/Denmark

4. Why is Bernardo laughing?

Because he tricked Francisco by pretending to be a ghost

5. Who is Horatio? Tick one box

Hamlet’s friend

6. A. Does Horatio believe that the guards have seen a ghost?

NO

B. Justify your answer with a direct quote from the text

“Horatio thinks that the guards are making stuff up, that nothing unusual is happening”

7. When the ghost does appear who does it look like?

Old King Hamlet

8. “This spirit, dumb to us, will speak to him!”

i. What do they mean “dumb to us”?

That he’s silent/won’t talk to them

ii. Who do they mean by “him”

Young Hamlet

9. Why is everyone “gathered in the castle throne room”?

Waiting for Claudius to make an announcement

10. How long has it been since Old Hamlet died? Tick one box

2 months

11. Re read this conversation between Polonius and Ophelia:

Which single word shows Polonius' disgust/disbelief that Hamlet really loves Ophelia?

"puh"

12. "Hamlet races after the ghost! You'd do the same wouldn't you? I know you would".

Do you think you'd do the same?

YES **NO**

Justify your answer below
Dependant on child's answer

13. What does the ghost tell Hamlet?

That he was murdered by Claudius- when sleeping in the orchard Claudius poured Hebenon (poison) in his ear

14. Does Hamlet believe the ghost?

YES

Justify your answer with a quote from the text

"Now that he knows for sure that his uncle Claudius killed his father he is feeling a thousand feelings"