

# **HAMLET WILL ROCK YOU**

by  
William Shakespeare

## L'autore

William Shakespeare, soprannominato il Bardo, fu uno dei massimi poeti e drammaturghi di tutti i tempi e un emblema della cultura occidentale. Molte leggende circondano la sua figura, tra cui quella di una sua possibile origine italiana, supportata dalla familiarità col nostro Paese che alcuni suoi drammi rivelano. Di certo si sa che nacque a Stratford-upon-Avon nel 1564, da un guantaio benestante, che poi finì sommerso dai debiti. A 18 anni Shakespeare sposò Anne Hathaway, da cui ebbe tre figli, poi le sue tracce si perdono fino al 1592, quando lo si ritrova a Londra, con già un certa fama di autore teatrale. Nel 1594 comprò una quota della società di attori del Lord Ciambellano: la sua attività di drammaturgo prese così nuovo slancio. Nel 1597 era ormai famoso e le sue commedie erano recitate a corte, nei palazzi, nei teatri su ambo le rive del Tamigi. Nel 1609 Shakespeare si ritirò a Stratford. Nel 1613 smise di scrivere per il teatro. Morì nel 1616.

## Alcune opere (la cronologia delle opere è tuttora oggetto di controversie)

*Titus Andronicus* (1590); *Henry VI* (1589-91); *The Comedy of Errors* (1592-93); *Richard III* (1593); *Love's Labour's Lost* (1594-95); *Romeo and Juliet* (1591 o 1595); *The Merchant of Venice* (1594-96); *A Midsummer-night's Dream* (1595); *Richard II* (1595); *Much Ado about Nothing* (1598-99); *As You Like It* (1599); *The Twelfth Night or What You Will* (1599); *Julius Caesar* (1599); *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (1600-01); ***Hamlet*** (1600); *Troilus and Cressida* (1601-02); *All's Well that Ends Well* (1602-1603); *Othello* (1604); *Macbeth* (1605-06); *Measure for Measure* (1604-05); *King Lear* (1606); *Antony and Cleopatra* (1606); *Cymbeline* (1609-10); *The Winter's Tale* (1611); *The Tempest* (1611-12).

## La trama

La vicenda di Amleto è tanto celebre da essere ormai un archetipo della cultura occidentale. Principe di Danimarca ed erede al trono, Amleto, dopo l'improvvisa morte del re suo padre, trascina le sue giornate tra la malinconia per la perdita subita, lo sdegno per le troppo repentine nozze della madre con Claudio, il fratello del defunto re e l'amore per la bella Ofelia. Ma una notte gli appare lo spettro del padre, che gli svela di essere stato ucciso dal fratello e gli chiede vendetta. Amleto vorrebbe agire, ma dubita. Dubita della veridicità della rivelazione dello spettro, dubita dell'efficacia di ogni azione in un mondo corrotto, dubita se essere o non essere. Per scoprire la verità si finge pazzo e osserva Claudio fino a convincersi della sua colpevolezza. Così si decide all'azione con conseguenze tragiche: Amleto uccide per errore Polonio, padre di Ofelia, che impazzisce

per il dolore e si annega. Suo fratello Laerte sfida a duello Amleto ma Claudio, per assicurarsi la morte del nipote, dissemina di veleno coppe e spade: la regina beve e muore, Laerte e Amleto si colpiscono a vicenda, ma prima di morire Amleto riesce a compiere la sua vendetta. La corte di Danimarca aspetta ora l'invasore Fortebraccio, immersa nel silenzio.

## Note di regia

***Hamlet Will Rock You*** è un entusiasmante musical che racconta in chiave rock la famosa tragedia shakespeariana. La scena è ambientata nel Palazzo Reale del Regno di Danimarca, che il regista **Daryl Branch** (*The Beatles, Guys and Dolls Jr.*) sceglie di rappresentare attraverso pannelli mobili, piattaforme divisibili e simbolici oggetti di scena che, opportunamente disposti, definiscono in modo chiaro i vari ambienti. I giochi di luce, attenti e precisi, e i colorati effetti speciali sono di grande aiuto nel contestualizzare le scene e sottolineare i momenti salienti dell'azione. I sei giovani performer cantano dal vivo le più famose hit dei Queen, oltre a brani dei Pink Floyd, di Lady Gaga e di Cindy Lauper, come in un vero concerto rock. La loro gestualità ampia ed espressiva conduce il pubblico alla comprensione della trama, facilitata anche dalle battute, completamente riscritte in un inglese moderno e colloquiale. Le coreografie si susseguono una dopo l'altra per tutto lo spettacolo e si ispirano soprattutto all'hip-hop e alla danza moderna. Anche i costumi, che identificano con chiarezza ciascun personaggio rimarcandone il ruolo, richiamano i più grandi artisti della musica pop, da Michael Jackson a Prince, da Lady Gaga a Bjork, da Freddy Mercury a Eminem.

## SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

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## CHARACTERS

*(in order of appearance)*

BARNARDO  
MARCELLUS  
HORATIO  
GHOST  
HAMLET  
CLAUDIUS  
GERTRUDE  
LAERTES  
POLONIUS  
OPHELIA  
ACTOR  
GRAVEDIGGER

## ACT I

### SCENE 1

*On the ramparts of Elsinore. Music and fog.  
Enter Barnardo and Marcellus, two sentinels.*

**Barnardo.** Who's there?

**Marcellus.** Who are you? Show yourself.

**Barnardo.** Long live the king!

**Marcellus.** Barnardo?

**Barnardo.** That's me. Welcome good Marcellus.

*Enter Horatio.*

**Marcellus.** Who is there?

**Horatio.** A friend and a patriot.

**Barnardo.** Welcome Horatio.

**Marcellus.** Has the ghost appeared again tonight?

**Barnardo.** I have seen nothing.

**Marcellus.** Horatio thinks we imagined it. He refuses to believe. I tell you, Horatio, we've seen this ghost twice. If you wait, it will appear and, hopefully, you'll believe your own eyes and speak to it.

**Horatio.** I'm sure it will not appear.

**Barnardo.** Wait and see. We have seen it. It has appeared twice.

**Horatio.** So, Barnardo tell me exactly what it is you think you saw.

*Enter the ghost.*

**Marcellus.** Good god above! There it is again!

**Barnardo.** It looks just like our dead king.

**Marcellus.** Hey! It is him actually!

**Barnardo.** Don't talk nonsense, our king is dead and buried.

**Marcellus.** I know, but he is exactly like him. Go on, Horatio. You're well educated. Speak to it.

**Horatio.** What are you, you who walks this tower at night, the same look and walk of our king who's dead? Speak!

**Marcellus.** It is offended.

**Barnardo.** See it moves away.

**Horatio.** Stay! Speak, speak. You must speak to us. If you have a voice, if you need our help, you must speak to us!

*The ghost exits.*

**Marcellus.** It has gone and will not answer. So, Horatio, do you still think it is a fantasy?

**Horatio.** Let's go and tell young Hamlet. If this ghost won't talk to us, it may at least speak to its own son.

**Marcellus.** Yes, let's do it. I know where to find him.

## SCENE 2

*Change of scene. Hamlet alone and troubled.*

*The company sings "Shine on you crazy diamond".*

REMEMBER WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG YOU SHONE  
LIKE THE SUN  
SHINE ON YOU CRAZY DIAMOND  
NOW THERE'S A LOOK IN YOUR EYES LIKE BLACK  
HOLES IN THE SKY  
SHINE ON YOU CRAZY DIAMOND  
YOU WERE CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE OF  
CHILDHOOD AND STARDOM  
BLOWN ON THE STEEL BREEZE  
COME ON YOU TARGET FOR FARAWAY LAUGHTER  
COME ON YOU STRANGER YOU LEGEND YOU  
MARTYR AND SHINE!  
YOU REACHED FOR THE SECRET TOO SOON YOU  
CRIED FOR THE MOON  
SHINE ON YOU CRAZY DIAMOND  
THREATENED BY SHADOWS AT NIGHT AND  
EXPOSED IN THE LIGHT  
SHINE ON YOU CRAZY DIAMOND  
WELL YOU WORE OUT YOUR WELCOME WITH  
RANDOM PRECISION  
RODE ON THE STEEL BREEZE  
COME ON YOU RAVER YOU SEER OF VISIONS  
COME ON YOU PAINTER YOU PIPER YOU PRISONER  
AND SHINE!

## SCENE 3

*Enter Claudius, King of Denmark, Gertrude his wife and Laertes.*

**Claudius.** It's true that my brother Hamlet, our former king, has just died. We will, of course, continue to honour him. Over time we must grieve less and think to ourselves and the future. I have tried to do both. My marriage to our late king's wife, Gertrude, has brought some joy, both to me and to

our realm, in this time of sadness. (*To Laertes.*) Good morning Laertes. Has your father Polonius some news for me?

**Laertes.** No, my lord. Now that the coronation ceremonies are over, I ask you permission to return to France.

**Claudius.** You are free to go, Laertes, as long as your father agrees. I don't need your help anymore. Ah, my dear young Hamlet, once my nephew, now my son by marriage...

**Hamlet** (*aside*). Closer than I was... but more distant.

**Claudius.** You seem odd lately, Hamlet. As dark as a cloudy sky.

**Hamlet.** Not so, my Lord, I am myself, and the sun is shining.

**Gertrude.** You might at least stop wearing black. You remind me of the night. Greet the day and... smile. We all miss your father but, by now, he is little more than dust in his grave. All that lives must die one day.

**Hamlet.** Yes, this is life.

**Gertrude.** If you know this, then why do you seem so upset?

**Hamlet.** I do not seem upset, I am upset.

**Claudius.** You show great respect to your father by mourning him. That is admirable. He mourned his father, too, just as you have mourned and so on back through history. We all miss him but life does go on. A display of too much grief is unhealthy, unhelpful and weak.

*He sings "All these things that I've done".*

WHEN THERE'S NOWHERE ELSE TO RUN  
IS THERE ROOM FOR ONE MORE SON?  
ONE MORE SON  
IF YOU CAN HOLD ON  
IF YOU CAN HOLD ON HOLD ON  
YOU WANNA STAND UP YOU WANNA LET GO  
YOU KNOW YOU KNOW NO YOU DON'T YOU DON'T

YOU WANNA SHINE ON IN THE HEARTS OF MEN  
I WANNA MEAN IT FROM THE BACK OF MY BROKEN HAND

ANOTHER HEAD ACHES ANOTHER HEART BREAKS  
I AM SO MUCH OLDER THAN I CAN TAKE  
AND MY AFFECTION WELL IT COMES AND GOES  
YOU NEED DIRECTION TO PERFECTION NO NO NO NO

HELP ME OUT  
YEAH YOU KNOW YOU GOT TO HELP ME OUT  
YEAH OH DON'T YOU PUT ME ON THE BACK BURNER  
YOU KNOW YOU GOT TO HELP ME OUT  
AND WHEN THERE'S NOWHERE ELSE TO RUN  
IS THERE ROOM FOR ONE MORE SON  
THESE CHANGES AIN'T CHANGING ME  
THE GOLD-HEARTED BOY YOU USED TO BE  
YEAH YOU KNOW YOU GOT TO HELP ME OUT  
YEAH OH DON'T YOU PUT ME ON THE BACK BURNER  
YOU KNOW YOU GOT TO HELP ME OUT  
YOU'RE GONNA BRING YOURSELF DOWN  
YEAH YOU'RE GONNA BRING YOURSELF DOWN  
YEAH YOU'RE GONNA BRING YOURSELF DOWN

*with Laertes and Gertrude.*

YOU GOT SOUL BUT YOU'RE NOT A SOLDIER  
YOU GOT SOUL BUT YOU'RE NOT A SOLDIER  
YEAH YOU KNOW YOU GOT TO HELP ME OUT  
YEAH OH DON'T YOU PUT ME ON THE BACK BURNER  
YOU KNOW YOU GOT TO HELP ME OUT  
YOU'RE GONNA BRING YOURSELF DOWN  
YOU'RE GONNA BRING YOURSELF DOWN  
YEAH OH DON'T YOU PUT ME ON THE BACK BURNER  
YOU'RE GONNA BRING YOURSELF DOWN  
YOU'RE GONNA BRING YOURSELF DOWN  
OVER AND IN LAST CALL FOR SIN  
WHILE EVERYONE'S LOST THE BATTLE IS WON  
WITH ALL THESE THINGS THAT I'VE DONE  
ALL THESE THINGS THAT I'VE DONE  
IF YOU CAN HOLD ON  
IF YOU CAN HOLD ON

**Gertrude.** Don't isolate yourself at university, Hamlet. Stay here with us.

**Hamlet.** Whatever you wish, mother. Whatever you wish.

**Claudius.** That's a loving and fair reply. Stay with us. Live as your role asks:  
as a king.

*Exit Claudius and Laertes.*

## SCENE 4

*Hamlet and Gertrude.*

**Gertrude.** You seem so different these days, Hamlet. Where is the son I  
knew? The boy I loved?

**Hamlet.** Loved? Loved? Who are you to talk of love, you who, scarcely half an  
hour after my father's death, were already sleeping with his brother, Claudius?

**Gertrude.** You don't undersand. It's not love I feel for Claudius. It's a matter  
of duty.

**Hamlet.** Duty? You are lying!

**Gertrude.** All love, feelings, are dead... you heard Claudius, over time we  
must grieve less and think to ourselves and the future. Hamlet, you must see  
I have little choice...

*She sings "Marry The Night".*

I'M GONNA MARRY THE NIGHT I WON'T GIVE UP ON MY LIFE  
I'M A WARRIOR QUEEN LIVE PASSIONATELY TONIGHT  
I'M GONNA MARRY THE DARK, GONNA MAKE LOVE TO THE STARK  
I'M A SOLDIER TO MY OWN EMPTINESS I AM A WINNER  
I'M GONNA MARRY THE NIGHT I'M GONNA MARRY THE NIGHT  
I'M GONNA MARRY THE NIGHT

I'M GONNA MARRY THE NIGHT I'M NOT GONNA CRY ANYMORE  
I'M GONNA MARRY THE NIGHT LEAVE NOTHING ON THESE  
STREETS TO EXPLORE

M-M-M-MARRY M-M-M-MARRY M-M-M-MARRY THE NIGHT  
OH M-M-M-MARRY M-M-M-MARRY M-M-M-MARRY THE NIGHT

I'M GONNA LACE UP MY BOOTS THROW ON SOME LEATHER AND CRUISE  
DOWN THE STREETS THAT I LOVE IN MY FISHNET GLOVES  
I'M A SINNER

THEN I'LL GO DOWN TO THE BAR BUT I WON'T CRY ANYMORE  
I'LL HOLD MY WHISKEY UP HIGH KISS THE BARTENDER TWICE  
I'M A LOSER

I'M GONNA MARRY THE NIGHT I'M GONNA MARRY THE NIGHT

I'M GONNA MARRY THE NIGHT I'M NOT GONNA CRY ANYMORE  
I'M GONNA MARRY THE NIGHT LEAVE NOTHING ON THESE  
STREETS TO EXPLORE

M-M-M-MARRY M-M-M-MARRY M-M-M-MARRY THE NIGHT  
OH M-M-M-MARRY M-M-M-MARRY M-M-M-MARRY THE NIGHT

NOTHING'S TOO COOL TO TAKE ME FROM YOU  
NEW YORK IS NOT JUST A TAN THAT YOU'LL NEVER LOSE  
LOVE IS THE NEW DENIM OR BLACK  
SKELETON GUNS ARE WEDDING BELLS IN THE ATTIC  
GET GINGER READY CLIMB TO EL CAMINO FRONT  
WON'T POKE HOLES IN THE SEATS WITH MY HEELS CAUSE THAT'S  
WHERE WE MAKE LOVE

COME ON AND RUN TURN THE CAR ON AND RUN

I'M GONNA MARRY THE NIGHT I'M GONNA BURN A HOLE IN THE ROAD  
I'M GONNA MARRY THE NIGHT LEAVE NOTHIN' ON THESE  
STREETS TO EXPLODE

M-M-M-MARRY M-M-M-MARRY M-M-M-MARRY THE NIGHT  
OH M-M-M-MARRY M-M-M-MARRY M-M-M-MARRY THE NIGHT  
OH M-M-M-MARRY M-M-M-MARRY M-M-M-MARRY THE NIGHT

I'M GONNA MARRY MARRY  
I'M GONNA MARRY MARRY  
C'MON C'MON THE NIGHT THE NIGHT

*Gertrude exits.*

## SCENE 5

**Hamlet.** I would like to escape this everlasting darkness. To become water and evaporate entirely. But God does not approve of suicide. God doesn't want his creation to destroy itself. I see no beauty in this world. Everything has become sad and useless. You irresponsible woman! Barely a month had passed since my father's death and you have already started flirting with my uncle. This will come to no good. My heart it breaks... and yet, I can't say what I think.

*He sings "Paint it black".*

I SEE A RED DOOR  
AND I WANT IT PAINTED BLACK  
NO COLOURS ANYMORE  
I WANT THEM TO TURN BLACK

I SEE THE GIRLS WALK BY  
DRESSED IN THEIR SUMMER CLOTHES  
I HAVE TO TURN MY HEAD  
UNTIL MY DARKNESS GOES

I SEE A LINE OF CARS  
AND THEY'RE ALL PAINTED BLACK  
WITH FLOWERS AND MY LOVE  
BOTH NEVER TO COME BACK

I SEE THEM TURN THEIR HEADS  
QUICKLY LOOK AWAY  
LIKE A NEWBORN BABY  
IT JUST HAPPENS EVERY DAY

I LOOK INSIDE MYSELF  
SEE MY HEART IS BACK  
I SEE MY RED DOOR  
AND I WANT IT PAINTED BLACK

MAYBE THEN I'LL FADE AWAY  
AND NOT HAVE TO FACE THE FACTS  
IT'S NOT EASY FACING UP

WHEN YOUR WHOLE WORLD IS BLACK  
NO MORE WILL MY GREEN SEA  
GO TURN A DEEPER BLUE  
I COULD NOT FORESEE

THIS THING HAPPENING TO YOU  
IF I LOOK HARD ENOUGH  
INTO THE SETTING SUN  
MY LOVE WILL LAUGH WITH ME  
BEFORE THE MORNING COMES

*Enter Horatio.*

**Hamlet.** Horatio, I am glad to see you well.

**Horatio.** The same, my Lord, and your poor servant forever.

**Hamlet.** Why are you here?

**Horatio.** My Lord, I came to pay tribute to your father's burial.

**Hamlet.** Do not mock me. You came to see my mother's wedding.

**Horatio.** In fact, my lord, I can't deny that the new wedding followed very soon after.

**Hamlet.** One could almost say that they used the same money on the wedding and the funeral! Often I think I see my father.

**Horatio.** Where, my Lord?

**Hamlet.** Only in my mind.

**Horatio.** I saw him once. He was a good king.

**Hamlet.** You will not meet a man like him again.

**Horatio.** Hamlet, I think I saw him last night...

**Hamlet.** Saw? Who?

**Horatio.** My Lord, the king your father... or the exact copy of your father.

**Hamlet.** The king, my father?

**Horatio.** Let me explain what we saw.

**Hamlet.** For God's sake, let me hear.

## SCENE 6

*Change of scene. Enter Polonius and Ophelia.*

**Polonius.** What is it Ophelia, that he said to you?

**Ophelia.** Do you mean Hamlet?

**Polonius.** Yes of course I do who else? I've been told that young Hamlet has been seen with you and that you've encouraged him. If this is true then I suggest you reflect on your behaviour. There is nothing to gain from this but disgrace. He is a prince. He's beyond your reach. So, tell me in all honesty, Ophelia, what did he say to you?

**Ophelia.** He said he feels affection for me.

**Polonius.** Affection? You don't understand the meaning of affection, you're too young. Do you believe him when he says these things?

**Ophelia.** I do not know what I should think.

**Polonius.** Then I will teach you. You're nothing but a child, Ophelia, believing every word he says! From now on, don't spend time with Hamlet. Don't even speak to him. No letters, no messages...

**Ophelia.** If you insist... father...



## SCENE 7

*Change of scene. The ramparts of Elsinore. Enter Horatio and Hamlet.*

**Hamlet.** Are you cold, Horatio? I'm freezing. What time is it?

**Horatio.** Almost mid-night. This is the time it usually appears. Now, my Lord it comes!

*Enter the ghost.*

**Hamlet.** God help us! Listen to me! Tell me, are you from heaven or hell? Good or bad? Friend or enemy? You look so like him, I'll call you Hamlet, king, father. Speak to me... tell me something!

*The ghost beckons him.*

**Horatio.** It's calling. It wants to see you alone.

*Exit Horatio.*

**Hamlet.** Speak! Speak, I pray you... what is the meaning of all this?

**Ghost.** I am your father's spirit. I walk by night. I burn in fire by day. I must pay for every crime committed while I reigned over this land. Every crime... Oh listen, Hamlet. Listen very carefully. If you loved your father dearly then...

**Hamlet.** Oh God.

**Ghost.** ...Revenge this horrible and most unnatural murder.

**Hamlet.** Murder?

**Ghost.** Horrible murder. All murder is horrible but this is somehow worse. The murderer now wears the crown.

**Hamlet.** Oh my prophetic soul! My uncle?

**Ghost.** He has stolen my crown. He has stolen my wife. He has seduced

and murdered his way to power. The wickedness, the shame of it! I must be brief. I often slept afternoons in my orchard and upon one such afternoon Claudius, your uncle, crept upon me sleeping such and poured poison in my ear. My life, my crown and my queen were lost instantly. Remember this, Hamlet. Remember me.

*The ghost disappears. Hamlet sings a repeat of "Paint it black".*

I LOOK INSIDE MYSELF  
SEE MY HEART IS BACK  
I SEE MY RED DOOR  
AND I WANT IT PAINTED BLACK  
MAYBE THEN I'LL FADE AWAY  
AND NOT HAVE TO FACE THE FACTS  
IT'S NOT EASY FACING UP  
WHEN YOUR WHOLE WORLD IS BLACK  
NO MORE WILL MY GREEN SEA  
GO TURN A DEEPER BLUE  
I COULD NOT FORESEE  
THIS THING HAPPENING TO YOU  
IF I LOOK HARD ENOUGH  
INTO THE SETTING SUN  
MY LOVE WILL LAUGH WITH ME  
BEFORE THE MORNING COMES

**Hamlet.** O thief, thief, smiling, damned thief! How can you smile, and smile and be a thief? Apparently in Denmark you can. I will avenge your murder, father. This I promise.

## ACT II

### SCENE 1

*Enter Ophelia*

*She sings "Time after time".*

LYING IN MY BED I HEAR THE CLOCK TICK  
AND THINK OF YOU  
CAUGHT UP IN CIRCLES CONFUSION  
IS NOTHING NEW  
FLASHBACK – WARM NIGHTS  
ALMOST LEFT BEHIND  
SUITCASES OF MEMORIES  
TIME AFTER TIME  
SOMETIMES YOU PICTURE ME  
I'M WALKING TO FAR AHEAD  
YOU'RE CALLING TO ME I CAN'T HEAR  
WHAT YOU'VE SAID  
THEN YOU SAY GO SLOW  
I FALL BEHIND  
THE SECOND HAND UNWINDS  
IF YOU'RE LOST YOU CAN LOOK AND YOU WILL FIND ME  
TIME AFTER TIME  
IF YOU FALL I WILL CATCH YOU I'LL BE WAITING  
TIME AFTER TIME  
AFTER MY PICTURE FADES AND DARKNESS HAS  
TURNED TO GREY  
WATCHING THROUGH WINDOWS YOU'RE WONDERING  
IF I'M OK  
SECRETS STOLEN FROM DEEP INSIDE  
THE DRUM BEATS OUT OF TIME  
  
IF YOU'RE LOST...

YOU SAID GO SLOW  
I FALL BEHIND  
THE SECOND HAND UNWINDS

IF YOU'RE LOST  
TIME AFTER TIME  
TIME AFTER TIME  
TIME AFTER TIME  
TIME AFTER TIME

*Enter Polonius.*

**Polonius.** Ophelia, my daughter, what is wrong?

**Ophelia.** He visited me.

**Polonius.** Who did?

**Ophelia.** Lord Hamlet did, as I was sewing in my closet. His hair and clothes were untidy. His legs were shaking. His face was pale and he looked terrified. He held me by the wrist.

**Polonius.** What did he say?

**Ophelia.** Nothing. He stood still for ages and then sighed so deeply. Before walking away, he gave me this.

*She shows Polonius the letter which he reads.*

**Polonius.** We must see the king. Yes, you're coming too. His love for you must be strong and it will lead him to desperate actions. Have you continued to see him?

**Ophelia.** No, I have kept away from him and returned his letters, as you instructed.

**Polonius.** This has turned him mad! We must tell the king. This must be known.

*Enter Claudius and Gertrude.*

**Polonius.** My Lord and Madam, forgive me for being brief. Your noble son is mad. I say ‘mad’, but who can say what madness really is unless one is mad oneself, which I don’t believe I am. But he is mad. It is true. It’s a pity, but it is true.

**Gertrude.** So what is the cause of this madness?

**Polonius.** Ah, yes, the cause. Indeed, the cause. Yes, that’s what we need to find out. I believe it has something to do with my daughter Ophelia. She’s an obedient girl and passed on this letter. If you would listen... (*He reads the letter.*) “To the Celestial, and my soul’s idol, the most beautified Ophelia”. Nasty word, “beautified”. Very awkward. Doesn’t really make sense. Anyway,...

**Gertrude.** Did Ophelia get this from Hamlet?

**Polonius.** It continues, Madam. It continues. “*Do you doubt the stars are fire? Do you doubt the sun does move? Doubt truth to be a liar. But never doubt I love. Oh dear Ophelia, I am dreadful at poetry, I do not have the art to articulate my moans. But that I love you best, Oh dear Ophelia, do not doubt it. Adieu. Yours evermore, most dear lady, whilst this body is still my own. Hamlet*” This my obedient daughter has shown me.

**Claudius.** But has she returned his love?

**Polonius.** What do you think of me?

**Claudius.** A faithful and honourable man.

**Polonius.** And so I am. No, I spoke to Ophelia quite plainly and I said to her: “Lord Hamlet is a Prince, out of your reach. This must not be.” And then I gave her warning that she should not return his love. She should not accept messages or gifts from him. She obeyed me and, as result, your son has, in my belief, gone mad.

**Claudius.** Do you think so?

*Enter Hamlet-dressed all in black. Reading.*

**Gertrude.** Here he comes, buried in his book.

**Polonius.** Can I suggest that you hide? I’ll try and talk to him.

*Exit Ophelia.*

## SCENE 2

*Claudius and Gertrude hide.*

**Polonius.** How are you, my good Lord Hamlet?

**Hamlet.** Well, thank God.

**Polonius.** Do you know me, my Lord?

**Hamlet.** Of course. You are a fishseller.

**Polonius.** Not I, my Lord.

**Hamlet.** Well, I wish you were as honest as a fishseller.

**Polonius.** Honest my Lord?

**Hamlet.** Yes sir. These days, only one man in ten thousand is honest.

**Polonius.** That’s very true my Lord.

**Hamlet.** Have you a daughter?

**Polonius.** I have, My Lord.

**Hamlet.** Don’t let her walk in the sun. You never know who she might meet! Just, don’t let her walk in the sun.

**Polonius** (*aside*). What does all this mean? Still talking about my daughter. Yet he claimed he didn’t know me at first and called me a fishseller. What is that all about? He has gone crazy. I’ll speak to him again... What are you reading, my Lord?

**Hamlet.** Words, words, words.

**Polonius.** What do they say?

**Hamlet.** You mean they can talk?

**Polonius.** What are the words that you're reading, my lord?

**Hamlet.** I'll tell you...

*He sings "I'm going slightly mad."*

WHEN THE OUTSIDE TEMPERATURE RISES  
AND THE MEANING IS OH SO CLEAR  
ONE THOUSAND AND ONE YELLOW DAFFODILS  
BEGIN TO DANCE IN FRONT OF YOU OH DEAR  
ARE THEY TRYING TO TELL YOU SOMETHING?  
YOU'RE MISSING THAT ONE FINAL SCREW  
YOU'RE SIMPLY NOT IN THE PINK MY DEAR  
TO BE HONEST YOU HAVEN'T GOT A CLUE  
I'M GOING SLIGHTLY MAD  
I'M GOING SLIGHTLY MAD  
IT FINALLY HAPPENED HAPPENED  
IT FINALLY HAPPENED OOH OH  
IT FINALLY HAPPENED  
I'M SLIGHTLY MAD  
OH DEAR

**Polonius** (*aside*). HE'S ONE CARD SHORT OF A FULL DECK

**Gertude** (*aside*). HE'S NOT QUITE THE SHILLING

**Claudius** (*aside*). ONE WAVE SHORT OF A SHIPWRECK

**Hamlet.** I'M NOT MY USUAL TOP BILLING  
I'M COMING DOWN WITH A FEVER  
I'M REALLY OUT TO SEA  
THIS KETTLE IS BOILING OVER  
I THINK I'M A BANANA TREE

**Polonius/Claudius/Gertrude.** OH DEAR.

HE'S GOING SLIGHTLY MAD  
HE'S GOING SLIGHTLY MAD  
IT FINALLY HAPPENED HAPPENED  
IT FINALLY HAPPENED UH HUH  
IT FINALLY HAPPENED  
HE'S SLIGHTLY MAD  
OH DEAR

**Hamlet.** OOH OOH AH AH  
OOH OOH AH AH  
I'M KNITTING WITH ONLY ONE NEEDLE  
UNRAVELLING FAST IT'S TRUE  
I'M DRIVING ONLY THREE WHEELS THESE DAYS  
BUT MY DEAR HOW ABOUT YOU

**All.** I'M HE'S GOING SLIGHTLY MAD  
I'M HE'S GOING SLIGHTLY MAD  
IT FINALLY HAPPENED  
IT FINALLY HAPPENED OH YES  
IT FINALLY HAPPENED  
I'M/HE'S SLIGHTLY MAD  
JUST VERY SLIGHTLY MAD

AND THERE YOU HAVE IT!

*Exeunt Gertude and Claudius.*

**Polonius.** I think I'll go now.

**Hamlet.** I think I'll die now. I think I'll die now. I think I'll die now.

**Polonius.** Goodbye, my Lord Hamlet.

*He exits.*

**Hamlet.** Tedious Old Fool.

### SCENA 3

*Enter some actors.*

**Hamlet.** Aha, here come the actors that I called for tomorrow's entertainment. Gentlemen you are welcome to Elsinore. I am glad to see all you looking so well. Welcome, good friends. Tell me, do you know "The Murder of Gonzago?"

**Actor.** Yes, my Lord.

**Hamlet.** I would like you to act it tomorrow night. I have made a few changes, though. Will you have time to rehearse them?

**Actor.** Yes, my Lord.

**Hamlet.** Very Well. Here is the script.

*Hands him the book he was reading.*

**Actor.** Let me read a little.

“For there stood Hecuba mad with grief  
barefoot amongst the threatening flames  
And draped but in a blanket not a robe.  
Caught up in fear, in terror and alarm  
when she saw Pyrrhus make malicious sport  
in mincing with his sword her husbands limbs.  
But if the Gods themselves did see her then,  
the instant burst of clamour that she made,  
unless things mortal move them not at all,  
would have made milk the burning eyes of heaven  
and passion in the gods.”

**Hamlet.** Superb! I'll hear the rest tomorrow and leave you till night. You are welcome to Elsinore!

**Actor.** You're very kind.

**Hamlet.** Yes yes, goodbye.

*The actors leave.*

**Hamlet.** I'm alone now. I'm a useless idiot. I've just heard an actor weep real tears, tear his hair, fall to the floor in anguish only for fiction! My father has been murdered and all I can do is talk, instead of doing what I should do: kill Claudius. Perhaps I didn't see my father's ghost. Perhaps it was the devil. I think I need more evidence and the actors will provide it. I've changed the play to include a murder very similar to that of my father. The play will wake up the king's conscience. That's how I'll reveal the truth. If my uncle is disturbed by the performance, then I'll know his guilt for certain.

*He sings "We will rock you".*

UNCLE WAS A BOY MAKE A BIG NOISE  
PLAYIN IN THE STREET GONNA BE A BIG MAN SOME DAY  
YOU GOT MUD ON YOUR FACE  
YOU BIG DISGRACE  
KICKIN YOUR CAN ALL OVER THE PLACE

WE WILL WE WILL ROCK YOU  
WE WILL WE WILL ROCK YOU

UNCLE WAS A YOUNG MAN HARD MAN  
SHOUTIN IN THE STREET GONNA TAKE ON THE WORLD SOME DAY  
YOU GOT BLOOD ON YOUR FACE  
YOU BIG DISGRACE  
WAVIN YOUR BANNER ALL OVER THE PLACE

WE WILL WE WILL ROCK YOU  
WE WILL WE WILL ROCK YOU

NOW THAT YOU'RE A OLD MAN POOR MAN  
PLEADIN WITH YOUR EYES GONNA MAKE YOU SOME PEACE SOME DAY  
YOU GOT MUD ON YOUR FACE  
YOU BIG DISGRACE  
SOMEBODY BETTER PUT YOU BACK IN YOUR PLACE

WE WILL WE WILL ROCK YOU  
HAMLET'S GONNA  
HE WILL  
HE WILL ROCK YOU

*He exits.*

## SCENE 4

*Enter Claudius and Gertrude. They sing "We are the champions".*

**Claudius.** I'VE PAID MY DUES  
TIME AFTER TIME  
I'VE DONE MY SENTENCE  
BUT COMMITTED NO CRIME  
AND BAD MISTAKES  
I'VE MADE A FEW  
I'VE HAD MY SHARE OF SAND KICKED IN MY FACE  
BUT I'VE COME THROUGH

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS MY FRIEND  
AND WE'LL KEEP ON FIGHTING TILL THE END  
WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS  
WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS  
NO TIME FOR LOSERS  
'CAUSE WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS OF THE WORLD

I'VE TAKEN MY BOWS  
AND MY CURTAIN CALLS  
YOU BROUGHT ME FAME AND FORTUNE AND  
EVERYTHING THAT GOES WITH IT  
I THANK YOU ALL

BUT IT'S BEEN NO BED OF ROSES  
NO PLEASURE CRUISE  
I CONSIDER IT A CHALLENGE BEFORE THE  
WHOLE HUMAN RACE  
AND I AIN'T GONNA LOSE

**Claudius/Gertrude.** WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS MY FRIEND  
AND WE'LL KEEP ON FIGHTING TILL THE END  
WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS  
WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS  
NO TIME FOR LOSERS  
'CAUSE WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS OF THE WORLD

*They exit.*

## SCENE 5

*Enter Hamlet.*

**Hamlet.** To be, or not to be- that is the question. Do I have a choice in accepting the challenge laid before me? Why? To get revenge? Why? Who will benefit from my actions? Nobody. I may as well die. I may as well enjoy eternal sleep. Ah, but wait! Not so fast, Hamlet. What if the eternal sleep becomes eternal nightmare? Not so simple, is it? Better to stay and temper the storm than face that which is unknown!

*Enter Ophelia.*

**Hamlet.** Ha, the gorgeous Ophelia! I expect you're thinking about me.

**Ophelia.** How are you, my Lord?

**Hamlet.** I humbly thank you, well,well,well. Would you describe yourself as good?

**Ophelia.** My Lord?

**Hamlet.** Would you describe yourself as beautiful?

**Ophelia.** What do you mean?

**Hamlet.** What I'm saying is that being beautiful doesn't necessarily mean you're good. I loved you once.

**Ophelia.** That's what you made me believe in your letters.

**Hamlet.** You should not have believed me. I don't love you. So there.

**Ophelia.** You deceived me.

**Hamlet.** You should go and live in a convent. Then there'd be no chance of giving birth, would there? There'd be less chance of bringing another sinful man like me into the world. Yes, go and be a nun. Where's your father?

**Ophelia.** At home, my Lord.

**Hamlet.** Shut the doors on him. He's mad. Don't let him out. And you, don't you ever get married. I will come back and haunt you if you do. Go and be a nun. Now. Go on! Do it! Now!

**Ophelia.** Oh heavenly powers... he has gone completely crazy.

**Hamlet.** Don't play games with me. Don't be two-faced. You women are all the same. Go on! There'll be no more marriage. Go and be a nun!

*He exits.*

**Ophelia.** He has lost it. He has lost his mind. And I believed his endless promises of love. False and tainted promises. I wish I'd never known him.

*She sings "Tainted love".*

SOMETIMES I FEEL I'VE GOT TO  
RUN AWAY I'VE GOT TO  
GET AWAY  
FROM THE PAIN THAT YOU DRIVE INTO THE HEART OF ME  
THE LOVE WE SHARE  
SEEMS TO GO NOWHERE  
I'VE LOST MY LIGHTS  
I TOSS AND TURN I CAN'T SLEEP AT NIGHT

ONCE I RAN TO YOU (I RAN)  
NOW I'LL RUN FROM YOU  
THIS TAINTED LOVE YOU'VE GIVEN  
I GIVE YOU ALL A GIRL COULD GIVE YOU  
TAKE MY TEARS AND THAT'S NOT NEARLY ALL  
TAINTED LOVE  
TAINTED LOVE

NOW I KNOW I'VE GOT TO  
RUN AWAY I'VE GOT TO  
GET AWAY  
YOU DON'T REALLY WANT ANYMORE FROM ME  
TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT  
YOU NEED SOMEONE TO HOLD YOU TIGHT  
YOU THINK LOVE IS TO PRAY  
I'M SORRY I DON'T PRAY THAT WAY

ONCE I RAN TO YOU (I RAN)  
NOW I'LL RUN FROM YOU  
THIS TAINTED LOVE YOU'VE GIVEN  
I GIVE YOU ALL A GIRL COULD GIVE YOU  
TAKE MY TEARS AND THAT'S NOT NEARLY ALL  
TAINTED LOVE  
TAINTED LOVE

DON'T TOUCH ME PLEASE  
I CANNOT STAND THE WAY YOU TEASE  
I LOVE YOU THOUGH YOU HURT ME SO  
NOW I'M GOING TO PACK MY THINGS AND GO  
TOUCH ME BABY TAINTED LOVE  
TOUCH ME BABY TAINTED LOVE  
TOUCH ME BABY TAINTED LOVE

ONCE I RAN TO YOU (I RAN)  
NOW I'LL RUN FROM YOU  
THIS TAINTED LOVE YOU'VE GIVEN  
I GIVE YOU ALL A GIRL COULD GIVE YOU  
TAKE MY TEARS AND THAT'S NOT NEARLY ALL  
TAINTED LOVE  
TAINTED LOVE  
TAINTED LOVE

## SCENE 6

*Enter Polonius and Claudius.*

**Polonius.** Is all well, Ophelia? You need not tell us what he said. We heard it all. Go and have a rest. Now then, my Lord, you can do as you wish of course, but I suggest that you let the Queen speak to Hamlet alone after the play is over. She may be able to reason with him and, if she can't, why not exile him to England? Or else some other place, secure in confinement.

**Claudius.** Good thinking, good thinking.

*Enter Hamlet and Gertrude.*

**Claudius.** How are you, Hamlet?

**Hamlet.** Excellent I tell you. Excellent; is the play ready?



**Polonius.** Yes my Lord.

**Gertrude.** Come, Hamlet dear, and sit with me.

**Hamlet.** No, mother. I'd rather be with Ophelia. *(To Ophelia.)* Can I lie on your lap?

**Ophelia.** No.

**Hamlet.** Or shall I lie beside you.

**Ophelia.** You seem to have cheered up.

**Hamlet.** Who, I?

**Ophelia.** Yes, My Lord.

**Hamlet.** You think I've cheered up? Just look at my mother. Look how jolly she is with my father only one day dead.

**Ophelia.** You mean one month, Hamlet.

**Hamlet.** Is it really that long? How time flies! How quickly grief dies. She killed it. Killer queen! But hush, the play begins.

*The play begins to the music "Killer Queen".*

*Enter a king and queen very lovingly, the queen embracing him, and he her.*

*She kneels, and makes a show of protestation unto him.*

*He takes her up, and declines his head upon her neck.*

*He then lies down upon a bank of flowers. She, seeing him asleep, leaves him. After a while comes in another man: takes off his crown, kisses it, pours poison in the sleeper's ear and leaves him.*

*The queen returns and finds the king dead. The poisoner returns and woos the queen with gifts. She seems harsh at first, but in the end accepts love.*

**Claudius** *(clearly annoyed).* What do you call this play?

**Hamlet.** The Mousetrap. This play is based on a murder in Vienna. Gonzago is the duke's name; his wife Baptista - and you shall see very soon how the murderer gets the love of Gonzago's wife. How devious!

**Ophelia.** The king gets up.

**Hamlet.** The trap is laid.

**Gertrude.** What's wrong, Claudius?

**Claudius.** Give me some light! Let me out!

**Polonius.** Lights, lights, lights!

*Confusion. Exit Hamlet exultantly followed by Gertrude and Ophelia.*

**Claudius** *(to Polonius).* I've had enough of this madness. It's not safe to let him carry on.

**Polonius.** My Lord, he's going to his mother's bedroom. It's our best opportunity. I'll hide behind the curtains and listen to what Hamlet says. I'll come immediately to you afterwards and tell you what I've heard.

**Claudius.** Good thinking. Yes, good thinking. Thank you.

*Exit Polonius.*

**Claudius.** Oh, the guilt is killing me. But what can I say? What can I do? Ask for forgiveness? I would if I thought I'd be forgiven but I won't be, will I? I'm a murderer. God doesn't forgive a murderer. No one forgives a murderer.

*He sings "Paranoid".*

FINISHED WITH RELIGION CAUSE IT  
COULDN'T HELP ME WITH MY MIND  
PEOPLE THINK I'M INSANE BECAUSE  
I AM FROWNING ALL THE TIME  
ALL DAY LONG I THINK OF THINGS  
BUT NOTHING SEEMS TO SATISFY  
THINK I'LL LOSE MY MIND IF I DON'T  
FIND SOMETHING TO PACIFY

CAN YOU HELP ME OCCUPY MY BRAIN?



I NEED SOMEONE TO SHOW ME THE  
THINGS IN LIFE THAT I CAN'T FIND  
I CAN'T SEE THE THINGS THAT MAKE  
TRUE HAPPINESS, I MUST BE BLIND  
MAKE A JOKE AND I WILL SIGH AND YOU  
WILL LAUGH AND I WILL CRY  
HAPPINESS I CANNOT FEEL AND LOVE  
TO ME IS SO UNREAL

AND SO AS YOU HEAR THESE WORDS  
TELLING YOU NOW OF MY STATE  
I TELL YOU TO ENJOY LIFE I WISH  
I COULD BUT IT'S TOO LATE

*He kneels to pray. Hamlet enters.*

**Hamlet.** He doesn't know I'm here. I could kill him. I could do it now. But he's praying. He'd go straight to heaven. That's what happens. If someone kills you while you're praying, it doesn't matter the evil you have done. You go to heaven automatically. I know that. We all know that. No, I'm not sending him to heaven. I'll catch him when he's drunk or swearing or... Yes, you can wait, Claudius. I've an appointment with my mother.

*Exit.*

**Claudius** (*rising from his prayer*). As I thought, a waste of time! I say I'm sorry, but of course I'm not. I want life to continue just as it is.

*Exit.*

## SCENE 7

*Enter Polonius and Gertrude.*

**Polonius.** You need to tell Hamlet that enough is enough. Tell him that you've protected him so far but no more. I understand that we are severe, but it is needed. Now, find out if he's really mad. I'll hide behind the curtains, just in case he gets violent.

**Hamlet** (*offstage*). Mother, mother, mother!

**Gertrude.** I understand. Don't worry. Hide. I hear him coming.

*Polonius hides. Enter Hamlet.*

**Hamlet.** Now, mother, what's the matter?

**Gertrude.** Hamlet, you have offended your father.

**Hamlet.** Mother, you have offended my father.

**Gertrude.** Your words are foolish.

**Hamlet.** Your words are cruel.

**Gertrude.** Why do you say that, Hamlet?

**Hamlet.** Because it is true.

**Gertrude.** Have you forgotten me?

**Hamlet.** No, not at all. You are the queen, your husband's brother's wife, and, unfortunately, you are also my mother.

**Gertrude.** I'm going. I do not wish to be insulted.

**Hamlet.** Sit down. You're not going anywhere. Not until you've looked in this mirror and seen yourself.

**Gertrude.** Get off me! What are you trying to do, kill me? Help!

**Polonius** (*behind the curtain*). Help! We need help!

**Hamlet.** Who's here? A rat or my uncle? (*He plunges the sword in the curtain, killing him.*) Well, he's dead now!

*He kills Polonius.*

**Polonius.** Oh, don't kill me!

**Gertrude.** What have you done?

**Hamlet.** I don't know. Have I killed the king?

**Gertrude.** Oh what a rash and bloody deed.

**Hamlet.** A bloody deed, yes. Almost as bad as killing a king to marry his brother!

**Gertrude.** Killing a king!

**Hamlet.** Yes, that's what I said. (*He sees Polonius.*) Oh, it's you. You stupid intruding fool! Now look what you've done. Shame. I thought you were Claudius.

**Gertrude.** You're mad. What have you done, Hamlet? You've killed him because of some fantasy.

*She sings "Bohemian rhapsody".*

IS THIS THE REAL LIFE?  
IS THIS JUST FANTASY?  
CAUGHT IN A LANDSLIDE  
NO ESCAPE FROM REALITY  
OPEN YOUR EYES  
LOOK UP TO THE SKIES AND SEE

**Hamlet.** I'M JUST A POOR BOY I NEED NO SYMPATHY  
BECAUSE I'M EASY COME, EASY GO  
A LITTLE HIGH LITTLE LOW  
ANYWAY THE WIND BLOWS DOESN'T REALLY  
MATTER TO ME  
TO ME

MAMA JUST KILLED A MAN  
PUT A SWORD AGAINST HIS CHEST  
PUSHED IT IN NOW HE'S DEAD  
MAMA LIFE HAD JUST BEGUN  
BUT NOW I'VE GONE AN THROWN IT ALL AWAY  
MAMA DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE YOU CRY

IF I'M NOT BACK AGAIN THIS TIME TOMORROW  
CARRY ON CARRY ON AS IF NOTHING REALLY  
MATTERS

TOO LATE MY TIME HAS COME  
SENDS SHIVERS DOWN MY SPINE  
BODY'S ACHING ALL THE TIME  
GOODBYE EVERYBODY I'VE GOT TO GO  
GOTTA LEAVE YOU ALL BEHIND AND FACE THE  
TRUTH  
MAMA OOO (ANYWAY THE WIND BLOWS)  
I DON'T WANNA DIE  
I SOMETIMES WISH I'D NEVER BEEN BORN AT ALL.

*The company enters as if in Hamlet's mad fantasy and sings.*

**All.** I SEE A LITTLE SILHOUETTO OF A MAN  
SCARAMUOCHE SCARAMOUCHE WILL YOU DO  
THE FANDANGO  
THUNDERBOLT AND LIGHTNING VERY VERY  
FRIGHTENING ME  
GALILEO GALILEO  
GALILEO GALILEO  
GALILEO FIGARO MAGNIFICO  
BUT I'M JUST A POOR BOY AND NOBODY LOVES ME  
HE'S JUST A POOR BOY FROM A POOR FAMILY  
SPARE HIM HIS LIFE FROM THIS MONSTROSITY  
EASY COME EASY GO WILL YOU LET ME GO  
BISMILLAH! NO WE WILL NOT LET YOU GO LET  
HIM GO  
BISMILLAH! WE WILL NOT LET YOU GO LET HIM GO  
BISMILLAH! WE WILL NOT LET YOU GO LET ME GO  
WILL NOT LET YOU GO LET ME GO  
WILL NOT LET YOU GO LET ME GO  
NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO  
MAMA MIA MAMA MIA MAMA MIA LET ME GO

**Hamlet.** BEELZEBUB HAS A DEVIL PUT ASIDE FOR ME  
FOR ME FOR ME

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN STONE ME AND SPIT IN  
MY EYE  
SO YOU THINK YOU CAN LOVE ME AND LEAVE  
ME TO DIE  
OH BABY CAN'T DO THIS TO ME BABY  
JUST GOTTA GET OUT JUST GOTTA GET RIGHT  
OUTTA HERE  
NOTHING REALLY MATTERS  
ANYONE CAN SEE  
NOTHING REALLY MATTERS NOTHING REALLY  
MATTERS TO ME  
ANYWAY THE WIND BLOWS

*Hamlet drags out Polonius' dead body as Gertrude looks on aghast.*

## ACT III

### SCENE 1

*Enter Claudius.*

**Claudius.** Where is this Hamlet? Where has he hidden Polonius? What more must I deal with? I'm sending him to England. I can't keep him here a moment longer. I must be careful, though. Very careful.

*Enter a guard with Hamlet.*

**Claudius.** Tell me, Hamlet, where's Polonius?

**Hamlet.** At supper.

**Claudius.** At supper? Where?

**Hamlet.** Not where he eats but where he is eaten.

**Claudius.** What exactly do you mean? Where is Polonius?

**Hamlet.** In heaven.

**Claudius.** What stupidity is this? What have you done? You've killed him, haven't you? You need our help. You really do. For your own protection, Hamlet, we're sending you away.

**Hamlet.** I thought you wanted me to stay here.

**Claudius.** Not anymore. A boat is waiting. You must go to England. You'll be looked after there.

**Hamlet.** England?

**Claudius.** Yes Hamlet.

**Hamlet.** Good!

*Exit Hamlet.*

**Claudius.** England will take care of him. In other words, in England he will die. I have sent letters commanding it. Destroy him, England! For like a poison in my blood he rages.

*Exit.*

## SCENE 2

*Change of scene. Ophelia enters singing softly to herself.*

**Ophelia.** AFTER MY PICTURE FADES AND DARKNESS HAS  
TURNED TO GREY  
WATCHING THROUGH WINDOWS YOU'RE  
WONDERING  
IF I'M OK  
SECRETS STOLEN FROM DEEP INSIDE  
THE DRUM BEATS OUT OF TIME...

*Enter Gertrude.*

**Gertrude.** What's the matter Ophelia?

**Ophelia.** IF YOU'RE LOST  
TIME AFTER TIME  
TIME AFTER TIME  
TIME AFTER TIME  
TIME AFTER TIME

**Gertrude.** Why all the singing?

**Ophelia.** Now I feel I've got to  
RUN AWAY  
I'VE GOT TO HIDE AWAY.  
TAINTED LOVE.  
TIME AFTER TIME

*Enter Claudius.*

**Claudius.** How long has she been like this?

**Ophelia.** I hope all will be well. We must be patient. I shall tell my brother everything.

*She sings.*

AND WILL HE NOT COME AGAIN, AND WILL HE  
NOT COME AGAIN.

Good night, sweet ladies. Good night, sweet ladies. Good night, good night.

*She exits.*

**Claudius.** Has she lost her mind, too?

*There is a noise within.*

**Gertrude.** What on earth is that noise?

*Enter Laertes.*

**Laertes.** So here he is, our pathetic little king! Give me my father! Where is Polonius?

**Gertrude.** Calmly, good Laertes.

**Laertes.** If one drop of my blood stays calm, then I'm no true son of Polonius. Where is he?

**Claudius.** Dead.

**Gertrude.** We didn't kill him.

**Claudius.** Let him ask his questions. So, who did kill him? That's what you'd like to know, I suppose.

**Laertes.** Don't speak in riddles to me. How did he die? Stand in my way and you'll regret it! I don't care who you are. My father's death will be revenged.

**Claudius.** I shan't stop you, Laertes. I had nothing to do with your father's death. In fact, I'm as shocked and distressed as you are.

*Ophelia re-enters with flowers which she scatters and she sings.*

IF YOU'RE LOST YOU CAN LOOK AND YOU WILL FIND ME  
TIME AFTER TIME  
IF YOU FALL I WILL CATCH YOU I'LL BE WAITING  
TIME AFTER TIME

**Ophelia.** With this rosemary we'll remember him. Yes, we'll always remember him. Pansies help you think. He must always stay in our thoughts. Always. There's fennel for you and columbines for you. And a daisy. I would give you violets too, but they withered when my father died.

*She exits. Gertrude follows her.*

**Laertes.** Do you see this? Oh God.

**Claudius.** I do, Laertes, and I share your feelings.

**Laertes.** You know nothing of my feelings.

### SCENE 3

*Messenger enters and hands a letter to Claudius. He reads it briefly.*

**Laertes.** Is something the matter?

**Claudius.** He escaped. How do you escape from a boat?

**Laertes.** Who escaped?

**Claudius.** Hamlet, of course. He was kidnapped by pirates and promised them I would pay the ransom. I've already paid for his death. Why am I paying to get him back again?!

**Laertes.** What are you talking about?

**Claudius.** Laertes, I completely understand your feelings. Do you know what? It's all Hamlet's fault. All your grief, all your anger is Hamlet's fault. Hamlet killed your father, so Hamlet must be punished.

**Laertes.** Hamlet! Oh God, God!

**Claudius.** Words are all very well, Laertes. What are you actually going to do? What punishment will you inflict on Hamlet?

**Laertes.** I'll cut his throat in the church!

**Claudius.** That's right. Show no mercy. We'll do this carefully, though. Thanks to some pirates, it seems that Hamlet is back in Denmark. You have your opportunity to kill him. All I ask is that you stay out of sight while we wait for his return. Then we'll set up a duel.

**Laertes.** I hope I'll win!

**Claudius.** I know you'll win. I will poison the end of your sword. The first cut is fatal. And, if that doesn't work, I'll have a goblet of wine ready for him to drink during the fight.

**Laertes.** Will it be poisoned, too?

**Claudius.** You understand me perfectly. What's that noise?

*Enter the Queen.*

**Claudius.** Gertrude?

**Gertrude.** One disaster upon another, one disaster upon another. Ophelia is drowned. Your sister is drowned, Laertes.

**Laertes.** Drowned! Oh where?

**Gertrude.** Where the willow grows across the brook. She must have been climbing the branches and one seems to have cracked with her weight. And by the time I heard her singing, and I reached her, her clothes had already pulled her beneath the surface to muddy death. Now she lies there, immersed into water.

**Laertes.** Drowned?

**Gertrude.** Drowned.

**Laertes.** Too much of water, poor Ophelia. Too much of water. And therefore I forbid myself to cry.

*He exits.*

**Claudius.** Let's follow, Gertrude. (*pointing Laertes.*) Calming his rage has not been easy and now he's becoming furious again. He must be watched.

*They exit.*

#### SCENE 4

*A graveyard. Enter a gravedigger.*

**Gravedigger** (*talking to a skull*). How can she be buried as a Christian, when she committed suicide? Maybe it was an accident, maybe she didn't mean to fall into the water. Why hang from a branch in that case? Anyway, I've been told to give her a Christian burial. So I suppose we'd better dig the poor girl's grave.

*He puts down the skull and starts to dig a grave. Starts to whistle.*

*Enter Hamlet.*

**Hamlet.** Has this man forgotten what he's meant to be doing? He whistles while digging a grave. (*He picks up the skull.*) Who's skull is this, sir?

**Gravedigger.** Son of a prostitute, he was completely mad. Whose do you think it was?

**Hamlet.** Well, I don't really know.

**Gravedigger.** I tell you sir, a provocative man who once poured wine over my head! This same skull, sir, was, sir, Yorick's skull. The king's jester.

**Hamlet.** This?

**Gravedigger.** The very one!

**Hamlet.** Let me see. Poor Yorick! I knew him well. He made me laugh. We were acrobats together, jokers together. He wanted to kiss me at all costs. His lips were just about here. Where are your jokes now? Your dances and songs, your flashes of joy? (*He can hear people approaching.*) What's this?

*Enter the funeral procession of Ophelia. With Claudius, Gertrude and Laertes.*

**Hamlet.** The king, the queen, Laertes. Who are they following?

**Laertes.** Lay her in the Earth and from the fair unpolluted flesh, let violets grow! She will be our guardian angel.

**Hamlet.** My Ophelia.

**Gertrude.** Sweet flowers for the sweetest girl. Farewell. (*She scatters flowers.*) I thought you would be Hamlet's wife. I hoped to give you wedding flowers but find myself scattering them upon your grave.

**Laertes.** You were driven to this, Ophelia. Haunted and hunted to death. I will have my revenge. Don't bury her yet. Let me hold her.

**Hamlet** (*coming forward*). Do you think you're entitled to all the grief? Well, think again. Remember me, Hamlet the Dane?

**Laertes** (*assailing Hamlet*). May the Devil take your soul!

**Hamlet.** Remove your fingers from my throat.

**Claudius.** Separate them!

**Gertrude.** Hamlet, Hamlet.

**Claudius.** Gentlemen.

**Gertrude.** Hamlet, enough!

**Hamlet.** I'll fight with him until there's no strength left in me. I loved Ophelia. Forty thousand brothers could not match my love for Ophelia. What will you do for her?

*Hamlet runs off.*

**Claudius.** He is mad.

**Gertrude.** Let him go.

**Claudius.** Remember what I said, Laertes. Be patient. Our time will come. Gertrude, try and control your son.

*Claudius and Gertrude exit.*

*Hamlet and Laertes appear at opposite ends of the stage.*

*They sings " Sunday bloody Sunday".*

**Hamlet.** I CAN'T BELIEVE THE NEWS TODAY  
OH I CAN'T CLOSE MY EYES AND MAKE IT GO AWAY  
HOW LONG  
HOW LONG MUST WE SING THIS SONG?  
HOW LONG? HOW LONG

CAUSE TONIGHT WE CAN BE AS ONE  
TONIGHT

**Laertes.** BROKEN BOTTLES UNDER CHILDREN'S FEET  
BODIES STREWN ACROSS THE DEAD END STREET  
BUT I WON'T HEED THE BATTLE CALL  
IT PUTS MY BACK UP  
PUTS MY BACK UP AGAINST THE WALL

**Both.** SUNDAY BLOODY SUNDAY  
SUNDAY BLOODY SUNDAY  
SUNDAY BLOODY SUNDAY (SUNDAY BLOODY  
SUNDAY)  
(ALRIGHT LETS GO!)

**Hamlet.** AND THE BATTLE'S JUST BEGUN

**Laertes.** THERE'S MANY LOST BUT TELL ME WHO HAS WON

**Hamlet.** THE TRENCH IS DUG WITHIN OUR HEARTS

**Laertes.** AND MOTHERS CHILDREN BROTHERS SISTERS  
TORN APART

**Both.** SUNDAY BLOODY SUNDAY  
SUNDAY BLOODY SUNDAY

HOW LONG  
HOW LONG MUST WE SING THIS SONG?  
HOW LONG? HOW LONG

CAUSE TONIGHT WE CAN BE AS ONE  
TONIGHT  
TONIGHT

SUNDAY BLOODY SUNDAY (TONIGHT)  
TONIGHT  
SUNDAY BLOODY SUNDAY (TONIGHT)  
(COME GET SOME!)

WIPE THE TEARS FROM YOUR EYES  
WIPE YOUR TEARS AWAY  
WIPE YOUR TEARS AWAY  
I WIPE YOUR TEARS AWAY  
(SUNDAY BLOODY SUNDAY)  
I WIPE YOUR BLOOD SHOT EYES  
(SUNDAY BLOODY SUNDAY)

SUNDAY BLOODY SUNDAY (SUNDAY BLOODY  
SUNDAY)  
SUNDAY BLOODY SUNDAY (SUNDAY BLOODY  
SUNDAY)  
(HERE I COME!)

*They exit.*

## SCENE 5

*Change of scene to Elsinore Great Hall.  
Loud music, a table is laid out with glasses of wine.  
Enter Claudius.*

**Claudius.** My good people, we gather to celebrate the return of Laertes and Hamlet. We will start our celebrations with a friendly fencing match between the two of them. I hope you'll be entertained. Begin! *(To himself.)* The sword is poisoned, and if it is not enough... here is the poisoned drink. Laertes is a skilful swordsman. The plot is done and soon I'll be free of Hamlet. *(Enter Hamlet, Gertrude and Laertes.)* Come Hamlet, shake hands with Laertes. Let's have a fair fight.

*He puts Laertes' hand into Hamlet's.*

**Hamlet.** It isn't you I should fight with. You're not to blame... I've just realised it.

**Laertes.** Don't try to puzzle me and prepare for combat.

**Hamlet.** If you insist.

**Laertes.** You joke with me, sir.

**Claudius.** Give them the swords. Hamlet, you know how much I bet on you?

**Hamlet.** I can't imagine.

*They prepare to fight. Laertes carefully chooses his sword.*

**Hamlet.** Come on, Sir.

**Laertes.** Come on, My Lord.

*They play.*

**Hamlet.** One.

**Laertes.** No.

**Hamlet.** Judgement?

**Claudius.** Yes, yes. A hit, a definite hit.

**Laertes.** Well, again.

**Claudius.** Wait. Let me just have a drink. Hamlet, this *(handing him the cup.)* is as a tribute to the hit you scored. Here's to your health. Give him the cup.

**Hamlet.** I'll play this bout first; put my drink there for now. Come. *(They play.)* Another hit. What do you say?

**Laertes.** A touch, a touch. I confess it.

**Claudius.** Our son shall win.

**Gertrude.** He's running out of breath. Here, Hamlet, take my handkerchief. Dry yourself. Let me drink to your fortune, Hamlet.

*She takes the cup meant for Hamlet.*

**Hamlet.** Good Madam!

**Claudius.** Gertrude, do not drink!

**Gertrude.** Why ever not?

*She drinks.*

**Claudius (aside).** It is the poisoned cup. It is too late.

**Hamlet.** I'll have a drink soon.

**Gertrude.** Come, let me wipe your face.

**Laertes (aside to the king).** Shall I hit him now?

**Claudius (aside to Laertes).** Not yet.

**Laertes (aside to the king).** I need to do it soon! The more I think about killing him, the less my conscience accepts it.



**Hamlet.** Ready to continue, Laertes? So far, you have not surprised me at all. Where's the fighting in you? Aren't you going to do the job well?

**Laertes.** Let's do this sensibly.

**Hamlet.** Should I be in fear for my life, or am I engaged in philosophical discussion?

**Laertes.** If you want to taste fear, Hamlet, just wait! That can be arranged and you'll be pleased.

*Hamlet and Laertes fight. In scuffling they change weapons and both are wounded with the poisoned weapon.*

**Claudius.** Part them! They've gone mad!

**Hamlet.** No! Fight again. Fight, for God's sake!

*The queen falls.*

**Laertes.** Attend to the queen, someone!

**Hamlet.** What's the matter with her?

**Claudius.** She faints at the sight of blood.

**Gertrude.** No, no, the drink, the drink. Oh my dear Hamlet! The drink, the drink... I am poisoned!

*She dies.*

**Hamlet.** Lock all the doors. Don't let anyone out. The devil's present in this room. Who has poisoned my mother?

**Laertes.** It hardly matters. It wasn't just the drink. This sword is poisoned too. Yes, the sword that pierced your body and mine. We are the dead, Hamlet. We are the dead.

**Hamlet.** Who did this?

**Laertes.** Who do you think? My sword to kill you with was poisoned, the drink designed to speed your death was poisoned. Who do you think did it?

**Hamlet.** The king, of course. I should have guessed. Well, I know now, don't I? I know exactly where this poison belongs.

*He stabs the king.*

**Claudius.** Treason! Treason! Help me, I am hurt!

**Hamlet.** Drink your own mixture, incestuous, murderous, usurping king! (*He forces the king to drink.*) If you care so much for my mother, then join her!

*The king dies.*

**Laertes.** Well done. Justice has been served. I wipe away your blame for either my death or my father's. Claudius was the person responsible for every murder, including yours. Forgive me as I forgive you.

*He dies.*

**Hamlet.** Of course I forgive you. You have resolved everything. You brought clarity. Look at the colour fading from your face. Why must you disappear so fast? I'm following you, Laertes. Mother, give me the rest of that drink. I need just another drop. The thief has been killed. All is well. Horatio now has a perfect tale to tell the world. Dreadful but perfect. Do that for me, Horatio, please. The rest is silence.

*He dies.*

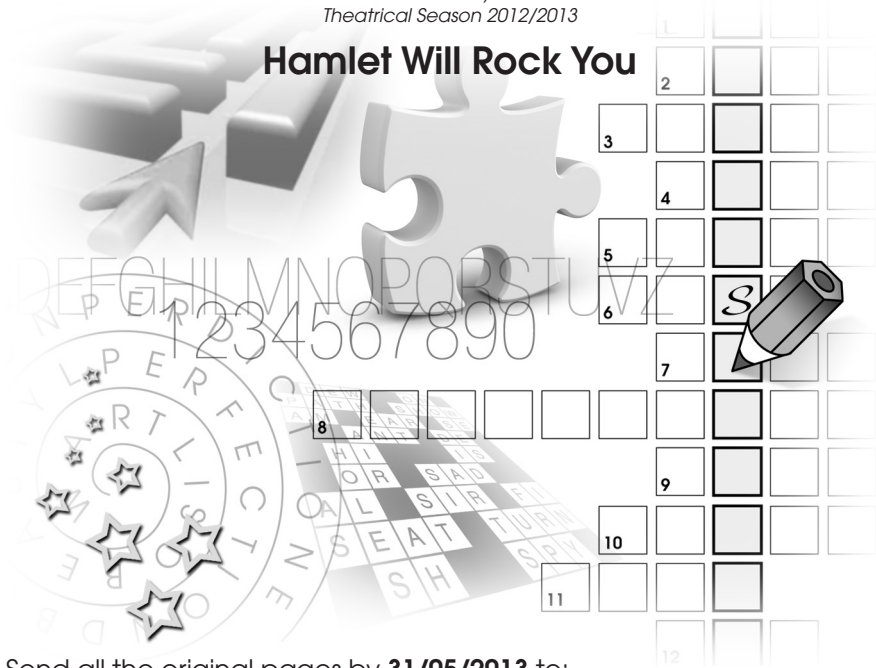
NOBODY KNOWS WHERE YOU ARE HOW NEAR OR HOW FAR  
SHINE ON YOU CRAZY DIAMOND  
PILE ON MANY MORE LAYERS AND I'LL BE JOINING YOU THERE  
SHINE ON YOU CRAZY DIAMOND  
AND WE'LL BASK IN THE SHADOW OF YESTERDAY'S TRIUMPH  
SAIL ON THE STEEL BREEZE  
COME ON YOU BOY CHILD YOU WINNER AND LOSER  
COME ON YOU MINER FOR TRUTH AND DELUSION  
AND SHINE

**THE END**

# ENJOY YOURSELF WITH OUR GAMES!

Practical exercises edited by Gianfranca Olivieri  
Theatrical Season 2012/2013

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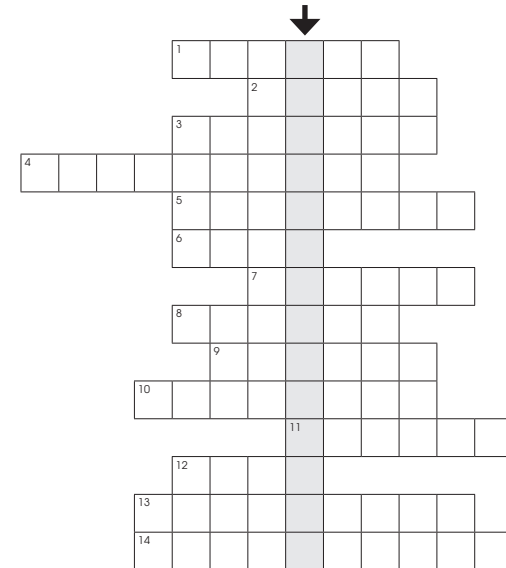
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## 1. PUZZLE

How can the play "Hamlet" be defined?

Use the text of the play to find the missing words in the sentences below and write them in the puzzle.

1. The ghost says to Hamlet: "I am your father's ....."
2. Polonius tells Ophelia that Hamlet is a prince beyond her .....
3. Hamlet says to Ophelia: "You should go and live in a ....."
4. Claudius says to Laertes: "What ..... will you inflict on Hamlet?"
5. Horatio says that the ghost usually appears at almost .....
6. Claudius tells Hamlet to live as his role asks: as a .....
7. Yorick was the king's .....
8. Hamlet says that he is dreadful at .....
9. Laertes wants to cut Hamlet's ..... in the church!
10. Barnardo and Marcellus saw the ghost on the ..... of Elsinore.
11. Claudius prepares a ..... of poisoned wine for Hamlet.
12. Gertrude thought that Ophelia would be Hamlet's .....
13. Laertes is a skilful .....
14. Hamlet says to Laertes: "I forgive you. You have resolved ....."



Now read the column under the arrow to find the answer.

**Solution:** A.....

## 2. LETTERS AND NUMBERS

What did you have to be, in order to perform a female role on stage in Elisabethan times?

In each sentences in box (A), quoted from the text, there is a missing word. Find it in box (B).

Example: ① God doesn't forgive a ..murderer.. = **A**

### SENTENCES BOX (A)

① God doesn't forgive a .....	<b>Y</b> WILLOW
2 It's not love I feel for Claudius. It's a matter of .....	<b>G</b> NIGHTMARE
3 You seem as dark as a ..... sky.	<b>B</b> GRIEF
4 You might at least stop wearing .....	<b>A</b> MURDERER
5 These days, only one man in ten thousand is .....	<b>O</b> GOOD
6 What if the eternal sleep becomes eternal .....	<b>Y</b> DUTY
7 How time flies! How quickly ..... dies.	<b>O</b> CLOUDY
8 Being beautiful doesn't necessarily mean you are .....	<b>U</b> BLACK
9 Ophelia drowned where the ..... grows.	<b>N</b> HONEST

### BOX (B)

Now match letters and numbers in box (C) and you'll find the solution.

### BOX (C)

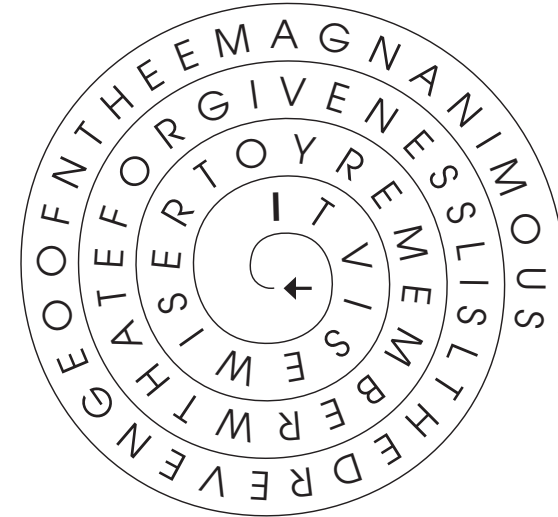
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>A</b>								

Solution: .....

## 3. SPIRAL

A good piece of advice!

Starting from the letter **I** read the letters backwards along the spiral. Be careful! There are 12 extra letters!



Solution: .....

Write the extra letters in order on the line below. You will find a pleasant compliment!

.....

## 4. GRID

### What is Hamlet's pitfall?

In the list below there are 18 adjectives, quoted from the text. Find them in the grid (vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards). The remaining letters, read in succession, will give you the solution.

- |              |              |               |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. ADMIRABLE | 7. CRAZY     | 13. DAMNED    |
| 2. DREADFUL  | 8. EDUCATED  | 14. ETERNAL   |
| 3. FAITHFUL  | 9. SAD       | 15. HONEST    |
| 4. HORRIBLE  | 10. OBEDIENT | 16. PALE      |
| 5. SHOCKED   | 11. STUPID   | 17. TERRIFIED |
| 6. UPSET     | 12. USELESS  | 18. JOLLY     |

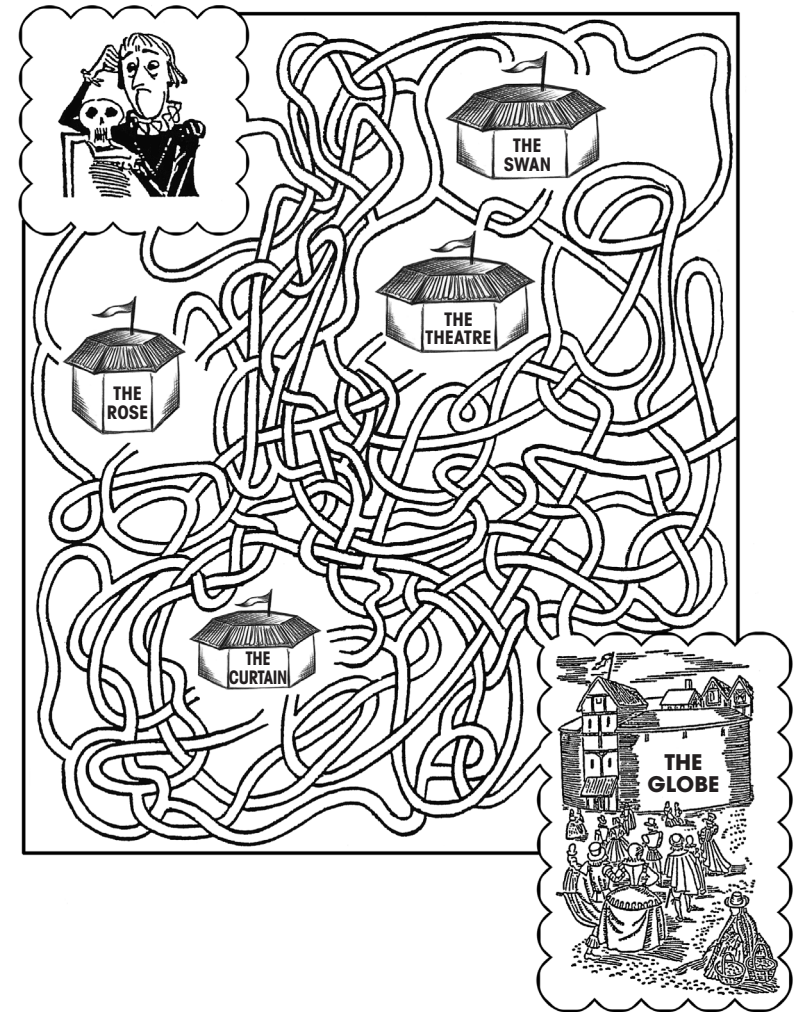


Solution: .....

## 5. A SPOT OF RELAXATION

### Can you help the doubtful Hamlet to get to the Globe?

The name of Shakespeare is especially associated to the "Globe". The other theatres were: "The Theatre" - "The Courtain" - "The Rose" - "The Swan".



## TEXT ANALYSIS

- **The plot**

1) Where and when does the story take place and what are the names of the main characters?

.....  
.....  
.....

2) In Act I, Claudius sings "*All these things that I've done*". What are the things that he has done?

.....  
.....  
.....

3) Who is Polonius? What happens to him?

.....  
.....  
.....

4) Where is Hamlet sent? How does he come back to Denmark?

.....  
.....  
.....

- **The characters**

5) What is the relationship between Hamlet and Claudius? What are Hamlet's feelings towards Claudius?

.....  
.....  
.....

6) Who was Gertrude's first husband?

.....  
.....  
.....

7) Hamlet is in love with a beautiful girl. Who is she?

.....  
.....  
.....

8) In Act III, Hamlet says: "*It isn't you I should fight with.*" Who is the person he is speaking to? Who should Hamlet fight with?

.....  
.....  
.....

- **Literary references**

9) How is this kind of tragedy called?

.....  
.....  
.....

10) Do you know other tragedies by Shakespeare? Which ones?

.....  
.....  
.....