

**Dramatic Devices:**

1. Shakespeare usually used one of three ways to open a play: humor, violence, or superstition (Elizabethan audiences were fascinated by ghosts). Which did he choose for the opening scene of this play? Support your response with an example.
2. Because all of Shakespeare's plays were performed during the day, a character usually indicated the time for the audience. Cite that line:
3. Besides as an actor in the play, what other purpose did Horatio serve?
4. Explain the meaning of this pun of Hamlet's line: "Not so, my lord, I am too much in the sun."

**Plot & Characterization:**

1. What major event has already occurred before the play opens?
2. Choose 2 adjectives to describe Horatio. Provide evidence to support your choices.
3. Why is Denmark preparing for war?
4. What is the relationship between Claudius and Gertrude?
5. Describe your impression of Claudius. Support your opinion with examples from the text.
6. Based on his first soliloquy in scene ii, how would you describe young Hamlet? Use 3 adjectives, and support your choices with examples from his speech.
7. What is Hamlet's opinion of Claudius? Support your response with quotes from the play.
8. In scene iii, Polonius gives Laertes a great deal of advice. Explain the advice (cite lines from the drama), and discuss if you believe the advice is valuable or not.
9. During scene v, what important (to Hamlet and the audience) information does the ghost reveal about the circumstances of his death?
10. Why do you think Hamlet asks people to keep the appearance of King Hamlet's ghost a secret?

**Big Ideas:**

1. How does Shakespeare establish the tone for the play in the opening scene(s) of Act I?
2. What allusion does Horatio use to describe the appearance of King Hamlet's ghost?
3. Explain Laertes' reference to flowers when he addresses Ophelia. Take note of the many flower references that appear throughout the drama.
4. Discuss the meaning of Marcellus' line, "Something is rotten in the state of Denmark."
5. What dilemma does Hamlet face in Act I? How do you think this will affect the remainder of his actions?
6. What themes seem to be established in Act I? Provide support for your responses.