

The One-Word “Hamlet”

A Skit by Dwayne Yancey
Selected from his collection, “Skits 24/7”

Cast: 7 m, 2 w. *Potential for doubling*
Length: 5 pages of dialogue (543 words)
Performance Time: About 3 minutes

The Story

Are your student actors daunted by the thought of memorizing lines of Shakespeare? Erase their fears with this incredible version of “Hamlet” where actors only have to memorize one-word sentences!

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"THE ONE-WORD 'HAMLET'"

(MARCELLUS, BERNARDO and HORATIO look at a ghost offstage.)

MARCELLUS: Ghost!

BERNARDO: Where?

MARCELLUS: There!

HORATIO: Who?

BERNARDO: King!

MARCELLUS: Ssssh.

(HAMLET enters.)

HORATIO: *(Nervously.)* Hamlet!

HAMLET: Horatio!

BERNARDO: Hamlet!

HAMLET: Bernardo!

MARCELLUS: Hamlet!

HAMLET: Marcellus!

MARCELLUS: *(Pointing at the ghost.)* Uh —

HAMLET: What?

HORATIO, BERNARDO and MARCELLUS: Ghost!

HAMLET: Where?

HORATIO: There!

BERNARDO: Flee!

MARCELLUS: Help!

(GHOST enters; HORATIO, BERNARDO and MARCELLUS exit, fleeing. HAMLET studies the ghost as it approaches him.)

GHOST: Ooooooh!

HAMLET: Who?

GHOST: Hamlet!

HAMLET: Dad?

GHOST: Silence!

HAMLET: But — ?

GHOST: Dead.

HAMLET: And?

GHOST: Killed!

HAMLET: How?!

GHOST: Poison!

HAMLET: No!

GHOST: Yes!

HAMLET: Who?

GHOST: Claudius!

HAMLET: Uncle?

GHOST: Same!

HAMLET: No!

GHOST: Yes!

HAMLET: Revenge!

GHOST: Peace!

(GHOST exits. CLAUDIUS and GERTRUDE enter.)

GERTRUDE: Hamlet!

HAMLET: Mother!

GERTRUDE: Son!

CLAUDIUS: Hamlet!

HAMLET: Uncle.

CLAUDIUS: Son!

HAMLET: Son?

CLAUDIUS: *(Indicating GERTRUDE.)* Wife!

GERTRUDE: *(Showing off her ring.)* Yes!

HAMLET: Oh.

CLAUDIUS: Come!

GERTRUDE: Celebrate!

HAMLET: No.

GERTRUDE: No?

CLAUDIUS: No?

HAMLET: No.

GERTRUDE: Later?

HAMLET: Maybe.

CLAUDIUS: Son!

(GERTRUDE and CLAUDIUS move toward exit talking quietly.)

End of Freeview

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