

# 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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