

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!

Performance Rights

*This skit may be used by the original purchaser only.
It may not be reprinted, given, loaned, or sold to anyone else.
For further rights information, please contact the publisher.*

Published by
ELDRIDGE PUBLISHING COMPANY
www.histage.com

Download your complete skit here from Eldridge Publishing

<https://histage.com/one-word-hamlet-the>

"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.)

HAMLET: *(To himself)* Fools! *(HE begins pacing back and forth while GERTRUDE and CLAUDIUS talk quietly.)*

GERTRUDE: *(Whispering.)* Claudius!

CLAUDIUS: *(Whispering.)* What?

GERTRUDE: Hamlet!

CLAUDIUS: Strange.

GERTRUDE: Worried!

CLAUDIUS: Why?

GERTRUDE: Sad.

CLAUDIUS: Crazy.

GERTRUDE: Sure?

CLAUDIUS: Maybe. *(THEY exit.)*

HAMLET: Method!

(OPHELIA enters with her brother, LAERTES.)

OPHELIA: *(Excited to see HAMLET, wants to hug him.)* Hamlet!

HAMLET: Madness.

OPHELIA: Hamlet?

HAMLET: *(Coldly.)* Ophelia.

OPHELIA: What?

HAMLET: Nothing.

OPHELIA: *(Introduces her brother.)* Brother!

HAMLET: *(Coldly.)* Oh.

LAERTES: *(Introducing himself, but clearly taken aback.)* Laertes.

HAMLET: *(Refusing to offer his hand.)* Hamlet.

LAERTES: *(Insulted.)* Hmmph.

OPHELIA: So!

HAMLET: Go!

OPHELIA: Where?

HAMLET: Nunnery!

OPHELIA: *(Offended.)* Oh!

LAERTES: Why!

OPHELIA: *(Crying.)* No! *(S exits.)*

LAERTES: *(Offended.)* You! *(LAERTES exits.)*

HAMLET: Nuts!

(HORATIO enters with a shovel.)

HORATIO: Hamlet?

HAMLET: Horatio?

HORATIO: OK?

HAMLET: Maybe.

HORATIO: Maybe?

HAMLET: Or —

HORATIO: Not?

(GERTRUDE enters.)

GERTRUDE: Ophelia!

HAMLET: What?

GERTRUDE: Dead!

HAMLET: How?

GERTRUDE: Drowned!

HAMLET: Dig! *(HE grabs Horatio's shovel.)*

GERTRUDE: Oh! *(GERTRUDE exits.)*

HORATIO: Hamlet!

HAMLET: *(Producing a skull)* Yorick!

HORATIO: No!

HAMLET: Alas!

HORATIO: But—

HAMLET: *(Indicating they knew each other.)* Well!

HORATIO: Oh!

HAMLET: Jester!

(LAERTES enters.)

LAERTES: You!

HAMLET: Me?

LAERTES: Yes!

(CLAUDIUS and GERTRUDE enter. Claudius has a cup of poison.)

CLAUDIUS: Boys!

LAERTES: Hello.

CLAUDIUS: Son!

End of Freeview

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing

<https://histage.com/one-word-hamlet-the>

Eldridge Publishing, a leading drama play publisher since 1906, offers more than a thousand full-length plays, one-act plays, melodramas, holiday plays, religious plays, children's theatre plays and musicals of all kinds.

For more than a hundred years, our family-owned business has had the privilege of publishing some of the finest playwrights, allowing their work to come alive on stages worldwide.

We look forward to being a part of your next theatrical production.

Eldridge Publishing... for the start of your theatre experience!