

## **Hamlet**

### **Act I Study Guide**

Answer the questions in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

#### Scene 1

1. What is Horatio's opinion of the ghost before and after he sees it? What does the ghost look like?
2. Explain the political unrest that takes place in Denmark at the beginning of the play. (lines 90-120)
3. Paraphrase the 3 questions that Horatio asks the ghost. (lines 140-150)
4. List the 2 allusions that Horatio uses in lines 124-137. Explain why Horatio uses them.
5. List 3 examples of figurative language used in Act I, scene 1.

#### Scene 2

6. What is the "good and bad" news Claudius states to his royal court in lines 1-16.
7. How does Claudius deal with young Fortinbras' threat against Denmark? (Lines 17-38.)
8. Explain the queen's comment: "cast thy knighted color off..." (line 70)
9. Explain Claudius' comments to Hamlet regarding his father's death. Explain at least 5 pieces of advice he gives to Hamlet? (lines 90-121)
10. List and explain the 4 allusions in Hamlet's speech. (lines 133-164)
11. Quote and explain 4 examples of figurative language from Hamlet's speech. (lines 133-164)

#### Scene 3

12. Compare Laertes' advice to Ophelia (lines 20-41) with Polonius' command to Ophelia (lines 132-145)

#### Scene 4

13. Explain Horatio's fear about the Ghost. (lines 77-86)

#### Scene 5

14. In lines 14-18, the ghost gives Hamlet a hint about the afterlife. Where is he? What is his daily routine?
15. Explain the figurative language the ghost uses in lines 18-28. What point does the ghost make?
16. What does the entire kingdom of Denmark believe happened to King Hamlet? (lines 38-47)
17. Explain the real details of how King Hamlet died. (lines 65-87)
18. What line tells Hamlet there may have been an affair between Gertrude and Claudius?
19. What does the ghost say to do about the queen? Copy the line that uses a metaphor for guilt.
20. What does Hamlet mean when he says he will "put on an antic disposition"? Why do you think he will do this? (lines 188-202)
21. Explain the command Hamlet gives to Horatio and the guards. Pay close attention to what is in the quotes.