

Quiz to find more evidence for our essay title on Hamlet's character and state of mind – The Answers

1. Find the quotation on page 39 which shows that Hamlet thinks it is more honourable to refrain from the Danish tradition of heavy drinking and celebrations:

'... it is a custom / More honoured in the breach than the observance.'

2. As Hamlet says that the drinking is something Claudius does: 'The king doth wake tonight and takes his rouse', what does Hamlet's disdain for the custom tell us about his feelings towards Claudius?
3. Find the line of questions that Hamlet speaks on page 41 which shows that he is desperate to know why his father has returned as a ghost.

'Say, why is this? Wherefore? What should we do?'

4. What does the list of questions tell us about Hamlet?
5. When Hamlet decides to follow the ghost Horatio tries to stop him. Find the statement that Hamlet makes nearly immediately afterwards (on page 43) which shows that he does not value his own life. You could use this quotation in your coursework essay as an example that Hamlet does not care whether he lives or dies.
6. Marcellus makes a statement on page 43 which won't help you at all with your essay but is very famous! Can you find it?

'Something is rotten in the state of Denmark.'

7. Find the quotation on page 47 which suggests that Hamlet will act quickly in his revenge of his father's murder.

'Haste me to know't, that I with wings as swift / As meditation or the thoughts of love / May sweep to my revenge.'

8. On the same page (47) write down the quotation which suggest Hamlet already suspected his uncle of murdering his father.

'O my prophetic soul!'

9. Why might the above quotation be useful in your coursework essay? Think about how you might write something along the lines of, 'When Hamlet meets the ghost of his father and is told of the guilt of his uncle it seems that ...'
10. Find the quotation on page 49 which shows how anguished Hamlet is by his meeting with the ghost.

'O all you host of heaven! O earth! What else? / And shall I couple hell? Oh fie!
Hold, hold, my heart'

11. In what way does Hamlet seem more distressed here than he did in his soliloquy in Act 1 Scene 2? Think about use of punctuation marks.
12. On page 51 find the quotation that reflects Hamlet's anger at both his mother and Claudius.
13. Hamlet makes Horatio and Marcellus swear they will not say what has happened. He also tells them he might put on something. What is it he is going to put on? Look on page 55.

'To put an antic disposition on –'

14. What do you think he means he is going to do?
15. Which quotation (right at the end of page 55) reveals that Hamlet thinks it is evil fortune that forces him to return order to Denmark?

'The time is out of joint: O cursed spite,
That ever I was born to set it right. –'