

William Shakespeare

# Hamlet

## Prince of Denmark



Audio CD-ROM



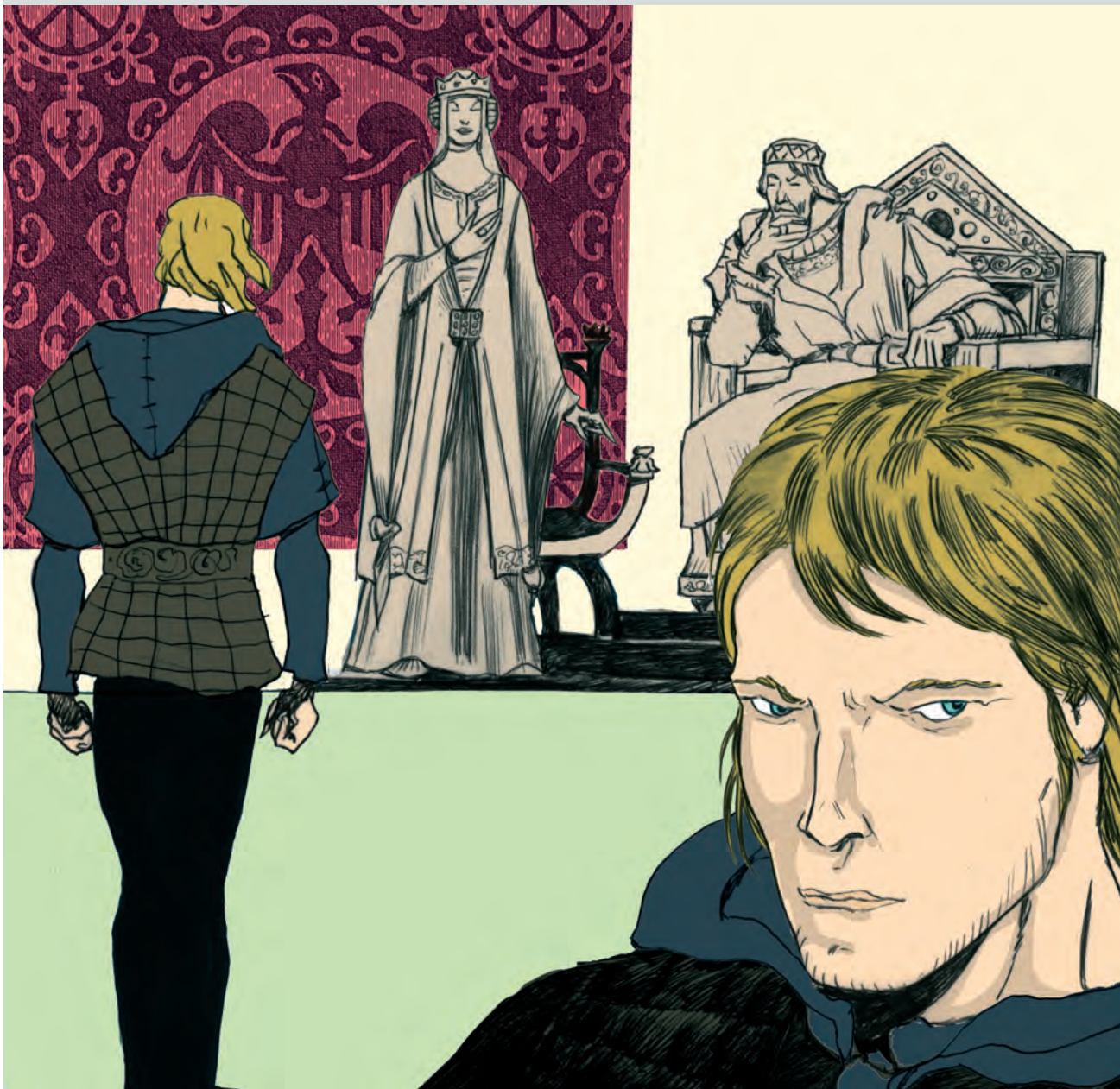
William Shakespeare

# Hamlet, Prince of Denmark

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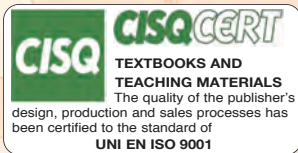
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The CD contains an audio section (the recording of the text) and a CD-ROM section (additional fun games and activities that practise the four skills).

- To listen to the recording, insert the CD into your CD player and it will play as normal. You can also listen to the recording on your computer, by opening your usual CD player program.
- If you put the CD directly into the CD-ROM drive, the software will open automatically.

**SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS for CD-ROM**

**PC:**

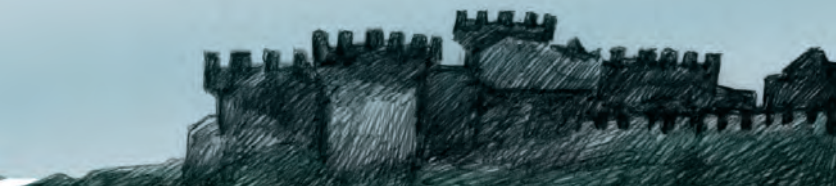
- Pentium III processor
- Windows 98, 2000 or XP
- 64 Mb RAM (128Mb RAM recommended)
- 800x600 screen resolution 16 bit
- 12X CD-ROM drive
- Audio card with speakers or headphones

**Macintosh:**

- Power PC G3 or above (G4 recommended)
- Mac OS 10.1.5
- 128 Mb RAM free for the application

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The text is recorded in full.



These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the passages linked to the listening activities.



A portrait of **William Shakespeare** by an unknown artist. It is a copy made in the early 19th century of a portrait that was in the Folio edition of the plays of Shakespeare, which was published in 1623. This copy is called the **Flower portrait** because it was owned by a family called Flower.

## The Life of *William Shakespeare*

William Shakespeare was born in 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon, a small town in central England. We do not know the exact date of his birth, but many people like to believe that he was born on 23 April. This is St George's Day, the day of the patron saint of England.

William Shakespeare's father made and sold gloves.<sup>1</sup> He was involved in local politics in Stratford-upon-Avon, and became the town mayor.<sup>2</sup> William Shakespeare very probably went to the grammar school in Stratford-upon-Avon, where boys were taught Latin and Roman history.

When he was eighteen Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway, who was eight years older than himself. They had three children: a daughter, Susanna, and twins, Hamnet and Judith. Hamnet died young, at the age of eleven.

We do not know what Shakespeare did immediately after marriage, and there are a lot of stories about what have been called the 'missing years'. But we do know

1. **gloves** : you wear these on your hands.

2. **mayor** [meə] : the head of the government of a town or city.



that he later went to London, where he became one of the owners of a theatrical company called the Lord Chamberlain's<sup>1</sup> Men. It seems he was an actor before he began to write plays. He wrote thirty-eight plays, as well as poetry. After his death, some friends of Shakespeare collected his work and published it in 1623. In 1599, Shakespeare's company built one of the most famous theatres in London, the Globe Theatre. The company changed its name to the King's Men in 1603, when James I became king, and from 1609 its main theatre was the Blackfriars. Shakespeare became rich and successful and retired to Stratford-upon-Avon in 1613. He died there on 23 April 1616.

Visitors to Stratford-upon-Avon today can see many of the buildings associated with Shakespeare's life, including the house where he was born and Anne Hathaway's cottage. They can also visit the Royal Shakespeare Theatre and go to performances of Shakespeare's plays.



**The Royal Shakespeare Theatre** was built in 1932 on the west bank of the River Avon.

1. **Lord Chamberlain** : a very important official at the royal court.

## 1 Comprehension check

Answer the questions.

- 1 Why do people like to think that Shakespeare was born on 23 April?
- 2 What kind of school did Shakespeare go to?
- 3 What are the 'missing years'?
- 4 Where did Shakespeare work when he went to London?
- 5 What did Shakespeare do before he started writing plays?
- 6 How many plays did Shakespeare write?
- 7 Who were the King's Men?
- 8 When and where did Shakespeare die?

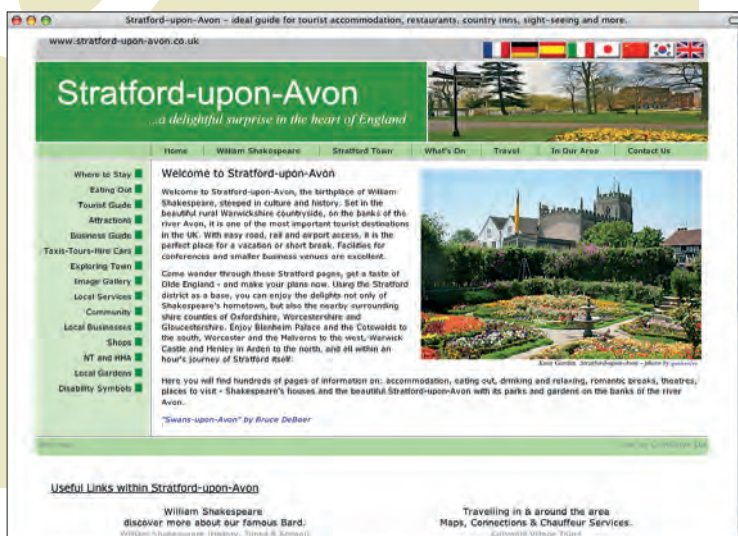
## INTERNET PROJECT

Go to the Internet and go to [www.blackcat-cideb.com](http://www.blackcat-cideb.com) or [www.cideb.it](http://www.cideb.it). Insert the title or part of the title of the book into our search engine. Open the page to *Hamlet*. Click on the Internet project link. Scroll down the page until you find the title of this book and click on the relevant link for this project.

In pairs or small groups, plan a weekend in Stratford-upon-Avon, and then present your plans to the class.  
Download some pictures of places that interest you to include in your report.

Say:

- 1 where you are going to stay
- 2 what historical places you are going to visit
- 3 where you are going to eat
- 4 what other things you are going to do.







In this scene from **Laurence Olivier's** 1948 film, Hamlet (Olivier) speaks to his mother, Gertrude (Eileen Herlie), and her new husband, Claudius (Basil Sydney), watched by Polonius (Felix Aylmer) and his daughter, Ophelia (Jean Simmons).

## Films of *Hamlet*

### *Silent Hamlets*

*Hamlet* has always been a favourite on the stage, but it has also been a favourite on the screen – there have been more than 80 filmed versions of this tragedy.

The first play by Shakespeare which appeared on film was *King John* in 1899. But just one year later the great actress Sarah Bernhardt appeared as Hamlet. Yes, the first Hamlet on film was a woman.

Hamlet, a master of language, remained popular in silent films (the first commercial film with talking, *The Jazz Singer*, did not appear until 1927): there were, in fact, silent-film versions of *Hamlet* in 1907, 1908, 1910 and 1913.

In 1920, another important film version of *Hamlet* appeared. The star of this film was the Danish actress Asta Nielsen, and she played Hamlet. In this unusual version of the play, Hamlet becomes a woman.

It is clear that this play inspires directors to do new and exciting things.



### **Laurence Olivier's *Hamlet***

Another very innovative *Hamlet* was directed by the famous British actor Laurence Olivier in 1948. He also starred in it. This black and white Film is certainly not just a filmed version of the play. Olivier cut out almost half of the play. He even eliminated some of the characters. It received some criticism when it appeared. Some people said Olivier (40 years old at the time) was too old for the role. But, in general, it is considered a great film. It won four Academy Awards and became the first non-American film to win the Best Picture award.

### **Grigori Kozintsev's *Hamlet***

Almost 20 years later another great actor played Hamlet on film. This time the actor was Russian. His name was Innokenty Smoktunovsky. The screenplay was based on the translation by the great poet and novelist Boris Pasternak. Unlike Olivier's version, this is a more public version of *Hamlet*. The Prince has to deal with a corrupt government and not psychological doubts and worries.

### **Franco Zeffirelli's *Hamlet***

Franco Zeffirelli is an Italian director who has made many Shakespeare films, including *Romeo and Juliet*. He used an American film star to play Hamlet – Mel Gibson. There are other famous actors in the film. Zeffirelli used Dover Castle, on the south-east coast of England, to make the film in 1990, and he also emphasised the action parts of this film.

### **Kenneth Branagh's *Hamlet***

Shakespeare's *Hamlet* is a very long play. The other films use only some of Shakespeare's text. But Kenneth Branagh, a famous British actor, decided to make a film of the complete *Hamlet*. It lasts four hours. Branagh is Hamlet and many famous actors play other parts. Branagh directed this film in 1996.

### **Michael Almereyda's *Hamlet***

A Hollywood star, Ethan Hawke, plays Hamlet in this film. The director, Michael Almereyda, moved the play to modern New York. The actors wear modern clothes, but the film uses the words of Shakespeare. In this 2000 film, countries become corporations, ghosts appear in videos and Hamlet considers action in a video shop.

# 1 Comprehension check

Complete this table of information about the films:

Year	Director	Actor who played Hamlet	Special comments
(0) 1948	Laurence Olivier	(1) ..... .....	The film won (2).....
(3) .....	(4) .....	Innokenty Smoktunovski	The film was made in (5) .....
1990	(6) .....	Mel Gibson	It was filmed in Dover (7) .....
(8) .....	Kenneth Branagh	Kenneth Branagh	The director used the (9) ..... text.
2000	(10) .....	(11) ..... .....	The film takes place in (12) .....

## PET 2 Which film of Hamlet do you recommend for these people?

Write O (Olivier), K (Kozintsev), Z (Zeffirelli), B (Branagh) or A (Almireyda) in the box.

- ☐ This man wants to see a modern film of *Hamlet*. He doesn't like films with actors in old sixteenth-century clothes.
- ☐ This girl loves old films with famous actors. She wants to see a classic Shakespeare film. She doesn't like American actors.
- ☐ This boy likes Shakespeare films, but he doesn't like black and white films. He wants to see a film with an American film star. He is interested in history and wants to see a film in an old castle.
- ☐ This woman wants to know about Shakespeare. She doesn't want to see a film without all of Shakespeare's words in it. She likes British actors but she doesn't want to see a very old film.
- ☐ This girl knows that *Hamlet* is very popular in many countries. She is interested in a foreign film of *Hamlet*. She prefers colour films but she is ready to watch black and white films.

# *The Characters*



**Hamlet**, Prince of Denmark



**Claudius**, King of Denmark,  
Hamlet's uncle



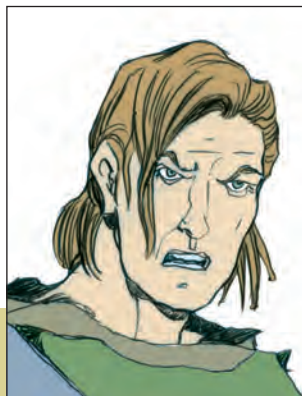
**Gertrude**, the Queen, Hamlet's  
mother, now wife of Claudius



**Polonius**, the King's councillor



**Ophelia**, Polonius's daughter



**Laertes**, Polonius's son



**Horatio**, Hamlet's friend



**Rosencrantz and Guildenstern**,  
courtiers and student friends of Hamlet



## Before you read



### 1 Listening

You will hear about a ghost. For each question, choose the correct answer – A, B or C.

- 1 Who sees the ghost first?
  - A ☐ the King and Queen
  - B ☐ Hamlet's friends
  - C ☐ the guards
- 2 The ghost looks like
  - A ☐ Prince Hamlet.
  - B ☐ King Claudius.
  - C ☐ King Hamlet.
- 3 At first the ghost does not want to
  - A ☐ leave.
  - B ☐ speak.
  - C ☐ identify itself.
- 4 Hamlet's uncle
  - A ☐ wants to become king.
  - B ☐ has become king.
  - C ☐ does not want to become king.
- 5 Horatio thinks that the ghost will speak to
  - A ☐ the Queen.
  - B ☐ the King.
  - C ☐ Hamlet.
- 6 Hamlet's mother wants him to
  - A ☐ go back to university now.
  - B ☐ not return to university.
  - C ☐ go back to university in a year.
- 7 Hamlet will pretend to be mad
  - A ☐ because he wants to be able to investigate King Hamlet's death.
  - B ☐ so that people will believe he has seen a ghost.
  - C ☐ because he wants to kill King Claudius.



One night, at Elsinore Castle in Denmark, two guards see a ghost.









The next night, Horatio stays to watch with the guards. The ghost appears again. It is wearing the same cloak<sup>1</sup> as the old king.



1. **cloak** : the long piece of clothing that the Ghost is wearing.
2. **something sinister** : something bad.

Prince Hamlet is very sad. His father, the King, is dead. Gertrude, his mother, has married Claudius, his father's brother. Claudius has become the new king. Hamlet does not like his uncle.




1. **foolish** : stupid.



Horatio comes to tell Hamlet about the ghost. Horatio has studied for many years with the prince at university. He is Hamlet's best friend and the prince trusts him completely.





1. cliff : 




Hamlet sees the ghost of his father. It signals<sup>1</sup> him to follow.




1. signals : 

2. poured [pɔːd] : 

Hamlet does not know what to do. Perhaps the ghost is telling lies.



I'll pretend to be<sup>1</sup> mad. Nobody will pay attention to a poor crazy prince. I'll investigate my father's death.



If the ghost's story is true, I'll kill my uncle.

1. pretend to be : seem to be.

## The text and **beyond**

### 1 Comprehension check

Match the phrases in column A with those in column B to make true sentences. There are five phrases in column B that you do not need to use. The first one has been done as an example.

#### A

- 1 ☒ F The guards tell Horatio about the ghost
- 2 ☐ Horatio tells Hamlet about the ghost
- 3 ☐ The guard is worried about the ghost
- 4 ☐ Hamlet is very sad
- 5 ☐ Hamlet does not think his mother was very intelligent or strong
- 6 ☐ Hamlet goes above the cliffs
- 7 ☐ The ghosts wants Hamlet to kill Claudius
- 8 ☐ The ghost leaves Hamlet
- 9 ☐ Hamlet does not kill Claudius immediately
- 10 ☐ Hamlet will act crazy

#### B

- A because he wanted to be king.
- B because he is Hamlet's friend.
- C because it will soon be day.
- D because he thinks that maybe it will speak to Hamlet.
- E because his father died and his uncle has become king.
- F because its appearance means that something is very wrong in Denmark.
- G because she married her husband's brother.
- H because he wants to be able to investigate the murder of King Hamlet.
- I because he thinks Hamlet will be a better King.
- J because Hamlet is afraid of him.
- K because Claudius murdered him.
- L because he is not certain that the ghost is telling the truth.
- M because he wants to kill Claudius.
- N because he is afraid of Claudius and his guards.
- O because he wants to see the ghost.



## 2 Speaking

Discuss these questions with your partner. Justify your answers.

- 1 Did the ghost tell Hamlet the truth?
- 2 What do you think is the best way for Hamlet to discover if Claudius killed Hamlet's father?
  - A Pretend to be crazy so no one will think he is investigating. In this way he is free.
  - B Talk openly with his mother about his doubts and fears.
  - C Ask his friend Horatio to help him.
  - D Pay some servants to spy on the king and the queen.
  - E *your idea:* ...

### It can't be. King Hamlet is dead!

We can talk about our conclusions using *must* and *can't*.

- *She married very soon after her husband's death. She can't be very sad about his death.*
- *He often invites travelling actors to the castle. He must really love the theatre.*

## 3 Must or can't

Fill in the gaps with either *must* or *can't*.

- 1 Hamlet's mother ..... be innocent. She married so quickly.
- 2 It ..... be King Hamlet's ghost. It looks just like him.
- 3 It ..... want to talk with Hamlet. The ghost looks like Hamlet's father.
- 4 What is that? It's in the air and not on the ground. It ..... be a man.  
It ..... be a ghost.
- 5 The guard sees a ghost. He ..... be frightened.
- 6 Horatio always wants to help Hamlet. He ..... be a good friend.
- 7 Hamlet is waiting to kill Claudius. He ..... be completely certain that the ghost tells the truth.
- 8 Hamlet and Horatio go to University of Wittenberg in Germany. They ..... speak German well.
- 9 At first, Hamlet can't believe he is really looking at the ghost of his father. He says to himself, 'This ..... be a dream.'
- 10 If Claudius really poured poison in his brother's ear, he ..... be a very good man.



#### 4 Listening

Listen to Part One of *Hamlet* on the recording. After the bells at the end of Part One, you will hear someone talking about Hamlet. For each question, choose the correct answer — A, B or C.

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 Hamlet is                    | A <input type="checkbox"/> happy.                      |
|                                | B <input type="checkbox"/> mad.                        |
|                                | C <input type="checkbox"/> intelligent.                |
| 2 He often                     | A <input type="checkbox"/> plays games.                |
|                                | B <input type="checkbox"/> acts in the theatre.        |
|                                | C <input type="checkbox"/> says strange things.        |
| 3 Hamlet wants other people    | A <input type="checkbox"/> to understand him.          |
|                                | B <input type="checkbox"/> to help him.                |
|                                | C <input type="checkbox"/> to believe that he is mad.  |
| 4 The people want Hamlet       | A <input type="checkbox"/> to be King.                 |
|                                | B <input type="checkbox"/> to get better.              |
|                                | C <input type="checkbox"/> to get married.             |
| 5 The Queen is worried because | A <input type="checkbox"/> She loved her son.          |
|                                | B <input type="checkbox"/> Hamlet is dangerous.        |
|                                | C <input type="checkbox"/> Hamlet saw the ghost.       |
| 6 Who knows about the ghost?   | A <input type="checkbox"/> The Queen.                  |
|                                | B <input type="checkbox"/> Horatio and the guards.     |
|                                | C <input type="checkbox"/> Everyone, except the Queen. |

#### T: GRADE 5

#### 5 Speaking: films and books

Talk about ghosts in films and books in pairs or small groups. Ask and answer the following questions.

- Which books do you prefer — fiction or non-fiction? Why?
- What do you think about ghost stories? Have you ever read one?
- What do you think about ghosts in films? Are they popular with teenagers? Why? Why not?
- Does your town/village have a ghost story?



## 6 Ghost hunters

The people below all want to talk to a ghost. Below there are some descriptions of ghosts. Decide which ghost (A-H) would be the best one for each ghost hunter (1-5) to talk to. For each number, write the correct letter.

- 1 ☐ Ben wants to talk to a ghost who can tell him about being a successful leader. He would like to meet someone who was successful during a war. He is more interested in meeting a politician from the last century than in questioning someone from earlier history.
- 2 ☐ Sarah is interested in powerful women. She wants to talk to the ghost of someone who was the leader of her country and succeeded in making her country better.
- 3 ☐ Julie is also interested in powerful women. She wants to ask someone from the past about the problems of being a leader. She wants to ask: 'Was it difficult to be a female leader? Did you fail because you were a woman?'
- 4 ☐ Ken believes that war is not necessary. He wants to talk to a leader who succeeded without fighting his or her enemies.
- 5 ☐ Sue is interested in European history. She knows that there are many famous kings and queens, emperors and generals. But she wants to question somebody from the past who succeeded in another area, for example science or art.

### A CLEOPATRA'S GHOST

Cleopatra was a famous Egyptian queen. She loved Mark Antony but he died. She also loved Julius Caesar. People say that she was very beautiful, powerful and determined. However, when she lost the war, she killed herself.

### B NAPOLEON'S GHOST

Napoleon was a famous general and emperor. At first, he was very successful in war and he controlled a large number of countries in Europe. However, he lost his final battle at Waterloo.

### C HAMLET'S GHOST

Hamlet was a young prince in Denmark many centuries ago. His father died and his mother married his uncle. His father's ghost told Hamlet about his murder. Hamlet was in a very difficult situation.

### D MARILYN MONROE'S GHOST

Marilyn Monroe was a famous film actress in the 1950s and 1960s. She was very beautiful and very successful but she was unhappy. Finally, she killed herself.

### E LEONARDO DA VINCI'S GHOST

Leonardo was a famous Renaissance artist and scientist in Italy. He painted the Mona Lisa, a very popular painting. He also invented many things. He even had ideas for an aeroplane and a submarine.

**F WINSTON CHURCHILL'S GHOST**

Churchill was a British Prime Minister during the Second World War in the twentieth century. He was a very good leader. The British people loved him. He worked closely with the Americans and the Russians.

**G GHANDI'S GHOST**

Ghandi was a famous Indian leader. When he was alive, the British controlled India. Ghandi tried to make the British give India its independence. He believed in peace and did not agree with violence. Finally, he succeeded.

**H QUEEN ELIZABETH I'S GHOST**

Queen Elizabeth was the queen when Shakespeare was writing. She was a very successful queen. During the time that she was queen, England became rich and very powerful in Europe.

**7 Drama: the ghost's visit**

Now try acting a part of the play. Divide into groups of four students. Give each person one of these roles: **NARRATOR, HAMLET, GHOST, HORATIO.**

Girls can take male parts if necessary. Remember that Shakespeare used male actors for female parts! The narrator reads the story at the top of each page.

- Practise speaking the lines from page 16 to page 17. Think about intonation — which are the important words in each line? Think about the emotion of each character. Hamlet is very sad. Later he is shocked. The ghost is very serious. Horatio is calm.
- Add a few more lines at the end of the scene. What questions does Horatio ask Hamlet? For example: 'What did the ghost tell you?' How much does Hamlet tell him?
- In each group, act the scene for your teacher and ask for advice.
- Now, each group comes to the front and acts the scene.

**Before you read****1 Listening**

Listen to the beginning of Part Two and answer the questions. You will hear about Hamlet's visit to Ophelia.

- 1 Where is Ophelia's brother?
- 2 How did Hamlet look when he came to visit Ophelia?
- 3 Why does Polonius think that he acted so strange?
- 4 Who is Polonius going to tell about Hamlet's strange actions?