Hamlet

Before Reading

**ACTIVITY 1** BEFORE READING

1 No  2 Yes  3 No  4 Yes  5 Yes

**ACTIVITY 2** BEFORE READING

1 Claudius.  
2 Hamlet’s father.  
3 Gertrude.  
4 Hamlet’s father.  
5 Hamlet.  
6 Gertrude.  
7 Hamlet.

While Reading

**ACT 1** WHILE READING

1 Bernardo to Marcellus.  
2 Horatio to the ghost.  
3 Claudius to Hamlet.  
4 Polonius to Laertes.  
5 Ophelia to Polonius.  
6 Hamlet to the ghost.  
7 The ghost to Hamlet.  
8 Hamlet to Horatio.

**ACT 2** WHILE READING

1 *What* did Hamlet say when he visited Ophelia?  
   He didn’t say anything.  
2 *How long* has Hamlet known Rosencrantz and Guildenstern?  
   He has known them for a long time; they were at school together.  
3 *Who* wrote a love letter to Ophelia?  
   Hamlet.  
4 *Why* have Rosencrantz and Guildenstern come to the castle?  
   Because the King and Queen want them to talk to Hamlet and find out why he is so worried.  
5 *Where* will everyone be this evening?  
   Everyone will be at the play.

**ACT 3** WHILE READING

1 Gertrude is worried about her son.  
2 Hamlet tells Ophelia that she *mustn’t* marry.  
3 Claudius wants Hamlet to visit *England*.  
4 The ghost told Hamlet that Claudius was a murderer.  
5 Claudius didn’t like the play.  
6 Hamlet stabbed *Polonius* with his sword.

**ACT 4** WHILE READING

1 + 12 Hamlet killed Polonius and hid the body.  
2 + 9 Claudius gave Rosencrantz and Guildenstern a letter for the King of England.  
3 + 14 When Hamlet left Denmark, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern went with him.  
4 +11 When Laertes heard about Polonius’s death, he wanted to kill Hamlet.  
5 +13 Claudius had a terrible surprise when Hamlet suddenly came back to Denmark.  
6 + 8 Claudius made a plan for a sword fight between Hamlet and Laertes.  
7 + 10 Gertrude told Laertes that Ophelia was dead.

BEFORE READING ACT 5

Do not give the answers now, but ask students to wait and see if their guesses were correct as they read the plays.

The correct answers are:  
1 N  2 Y  3 N  4 Y  5 Y  6 N

**ACT 5** WHILE READING

When they were coming back to the castle, Hamlet and Horatio saw a man who was *digging a grave*. Hamlet found a *skull* on the ground.  
Then the King, Gertrude and Laertes arrived for Ophelia’s *funeral*. They put her in the grave, and Gertrude put flowers on her body.  
Hamlet told Horatio about Claudius’s *letter* to the King of England. Claudius’s *plan* to kill him went wrong, because Hamlet *escaped* from the ship.  
Laertes and Hamlet had a sword fight. Hamlet thought it was a *friendly* fight - but there was *poison* on Laertes’ sword.

After Reading

**ACTIVITY 1** AFTER READING

My dear friend,

You must *help* me! I have sent *Prince* Hamlet to see you. Perhaps you think that Hamlet is *friendly* and kind - but it’s not true! He is a very *dangerous* man. He has *killed* my old friend Polonius - and I think he wants to *kill* me too! Hamlet’s father died a short time ago, and that made him *mad*. The Queen and I have *tried* to help him, but we cannot. I will never be happy while Hamlet is *alive*. He must die!  
I cannot kill Hamlet - the *people* of Denmark love him, and I must be *careful*. But if you kill him, I will tell everyone that Hamlet had a terrible *accident* while he was in England. Please do this for me! Kill him - *immediately*!  
Claudius
ACTIVITY 2 AFTER READING

1. Claudius. He is watching the play (which Hamlet has asked the players to change) which shows how he murdered his brother.
2. Polonius. He is hiding behind the curtain in Gertrude’s room, listening to their conversation.
3. Laertes. He has come back from France, and his sister Ophelia, who has gone mad after the death of her father, does not recognise him.
4. Hamlet. At the start of the sword-fight with Laertes, he does not realise that Laertes’ sword is poisoned, and Laertes is trying to kill him.

ACTIVITY 3 AFTER READING

1. The ghost of the dead King came back to speak to his son.
2. The guards at the castle only saw the ghost at night.
3. The ghost told Hamlet that Claudius killed him.
4. Later, the ghost came back when Hamlet was with his mother.
5. The ghost told Hamlet to take revenge on Claudius and not to hurt his mother.

Open answers.

ACTIVITY 4 AFTER READING

Open answers.

ACTIVITY 5 AFTER READING

1. CURTAIN
2. GRAVE
3. SAD
4. ACTORS
5. SKULL
6. SECRET

The hidden word is CASTLE.

ACTIVITY 6 AFTER READING

Suggested answers:
1. servant – the others are family members
2. secret – the others are moods or feelings
3. flower – not a cause of death in the play
4. truth – the others are public/family events
5. lend – the others are nouns, not verbs

ACTIVITY 7 AFTER READING

Open answers.

Suggested answers:
CLAUDIUS: Gertrude! Don’t drink! That wine is for Hamlet!

GERTRUDE: What’s the matter, my love? (She drinks from Hamlet’s cup.) Oh! This wine . . . it tastes strange!

Gertrude falls to the floor. Everyone shouts.

HAMLET: (Running to help her) Mother! What’s wrong?

LAERTES: There’s poison in her wine - and there’s poison on my sword, too. It was the King’s idea!

HAMLET: (Taking Laertes’ sword) Claudius - you murdered my father. Now I’m going to have my revenge! (The guards try to stop him, but he stabs Claudius.)

HORATIO: It’s true! Claudius was a murderer. The crown belongs to Hamlet! (He gives the crown to Hamlet.)

HAMLET: Laertes, we mustn’t fight. Be my friend - be my adviser! You too, Horatio!