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Read "The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark" before answering the questions that follow.

from
The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark
by William Shakespeare

1 *ACT I, Scene i. Elsinore. A platform before the castle.*

2 *[Francisco is at his post. Enter toward him Bernardo.]*

3 **BERNARDO:** Who's there?

4 **FRANCISCO:** Nay, answer me: stand, and unfold yourself.

5 **BERNARDO:** Long live the king!

6 **FRANCISCO:** Bernardo?

7 **BERNARDO:** He.

8 **FRANCISCO:** You come most carefully upon your hour.

9 **BERNARDO:** 'Tis now struck twelve; get thee to bed, Francisco.

10 **FRANCISCO:** For this relief much thanks. 'Tis bitter cold,
And I am sick at heart¹.

11 **BERNARDO:** Have you had quiet guard?

12 **FRANCISCO:** Not a mouse stirring.

13 **BERNARDO:** Well, good night.
If you do meet Horatio and Marcellus,
The rivals of my watch, bid them make haste.

14 **FRANCISCO:** I think I hear them. Stand, ho! Who's there?

15 *[Enter Horatio and Marcellus.]*

16 **HORATIO:** Friends to this ground.

17 **MARCELLUS:** And liegemen to the Dane².

18 **FRANCISCO:** Give you good night.

19 **MARCELLUS:** O, farewell, honest soldier.
Who hath relieved you?

20 **FRANCISCO:** Bernardo has my place.
Give you good night.

21 *[Exit Francisco.]*

22 **MARCELLUS:** Holla! Bernardo!

23 **BERNARDO:** Say —
What, is Horatio there?

24 **HORATIO:** A piece of him.

25 **BERNARDO:** Welcome, Horatio, welcome, good Marcellus.

26 **MARCELLUS:** What, has this thing appear'd again to-night?

27 **BERNARDO:** I have seen nothing.

28 **MARCELLUS:** Horatio says 'tis but our fantasy³
And will not let belief take hold of him
Touching this dreaded sight twice seen of us;
Therefore I have entreated him along,
With us to watch the minutes of this night,
That if again this apparition come,
He may approve⁴ our eyes and speak to it.

29 **HORATIO:** Tush, tush, 'twill not appear.

30 **BERNARDO:** Sit down awhile,
And let us once again assail your ears,
That are so fortified against our story,
What we have two nights seen.

31 **HORATIO:** Well, sit we down,
And let us hear Bernardo speak of this.

32 **BERNARDO:** Last night of all,
When yond same star that's westward from the pole⁵
Had made his course to illume that part of heaven
Where now it burns, Marcellus and myself,
The bell then beating one, —

33 *[Enter Ghost.]*

34 **MARCELLUS:** Peace, break thee off. Look, where it comes again!

35 **BERNARDO:** In the same figure, like the King that's dead.

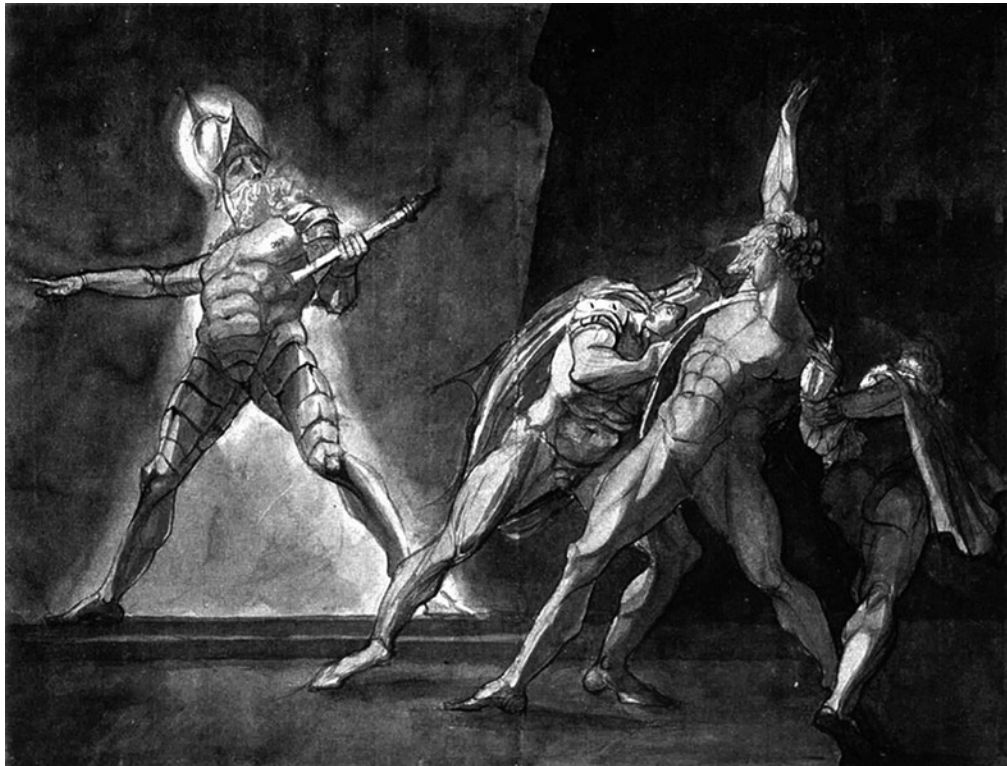
36 **MARCELLUS:** Thou art a scholar; speak to it, Horatio.

37 **BERNARDO:** Looks it not like the King? Mark⁶ it, Horatio.

38 **HORATIO:** Most like, it harrows⁷ me with fear and wonder.

39 **BERNARDO:** It would be spoke to.

- 40 **MARCELLUS:** Question it, Horatio.
- 41 **HORATIO:** What art thou that usurp'st this time of night,
Together with that fair and warlike form
In which the majesty of buried Denmark
Did sometimes march? By heaven I charge thee speak!
- 42 **MARCELLUS:** It is offended.
- 43 **BERNARDO:** See, it stalks away!
- 44 **HORATIO:** Stay! Speak, speak! I charge thee speak!
- 45 [*Exit Ghost.*]
- 46 **MARCELLUS:** 'Tis gone, and will not answer.
- 47 **BERNARDO:** How now, Horatio! you tremble and look pale:
Is not this something more than fantasy?
What think you on't?
- 48 **HORATIO:** Before my God, I might not this believe
Without the sensible and true avouch⁸
Of mine own eyes.
- 49 **MARCELLUS:** Is it not like the King?
- 50 **HORATIO:** As thou art to thyself.
Such was the very armour he had on
When he the ambitious Norway combated.
So frown'd he once, when, in an angry parle⁹,
He smote the sledded Polacks on the ice.
'Tis strange.
- 51 **MARCELLUS:** Thus twice before, and jump at this dead hour,
With martial stalk hath he gone by our watch.
- 52 **HORATIO:** In what particular thought to work I know not,
But in the gross and scope of my opinion,
This bodes some strange eruption¹⁰ to our state.



- 53 **MARCELLUS:** Good now, sit down, and tell me, he that knows,
Why this same strict and most observant watch
So nightly toils the subject of the land,
And why such daily cast of brazen cannon,
And foreign mart¹¹ for implements of war;
Why such impress¹² of shipwrights, whose sore task
Does not divide the Sunday from the week;
What might be toward¹³, that this sweaty haste
Doth make the night joint-labourer with the day:
Who is't that can inform me?

54 **HORATIO:** That can I;

At least, the whisper goes so: our last king,
Whose image even but now appear'd to us,
Was, as you know, by Fortinbras of Norway,
Thereto prick'd on by a most emulate pride,
Dared to the combat; in which our valiant Hamlet —
For so this side of our known world esteem'd him —
Did slay this Fortinbras, who, by a seal'd compact
Well ratified by law and heraldry,
Did forfeit, with his life, all those his lands
Which he stood seized of¹⁴, to the conqueror;
Against the which, a moiety¹⁵ competent
Was gaged by our king; which had return'd
To the inheritance of Fortinbras,
Had he been vanquisher; as by the same covenant,
And carriage¹⁶ of the article design'd,
His fell to Hamlet. Now, sir, young Fortinbras,
Of unimproved¹⁷ mettle hot and full,
Hath in the skirts¹⁸ of Norway here and there
Shark'd up¹⁹ a list of lawless resolute,
For food and diet, to some enterprise
That hath a stomach in't, which is no other —
As it doth well appear unto our state —
But to recover of us, by strong hand
And terms compulsory, those foresaid lands
So by his father lost; and this, I take it,
Is the main motive of our preparations,
The source of this our watch and the chief head²⁰
Of this post-haste and romage²¹ in the land.

55 **BERNARDO:** I think it be no other but e'en so.

Well may it sort that this portentous figure
Comes armed through our watch; so like the King
That was and is the question of these wars.

- 56 **HORATIO:** A mote it is to trouble the mind's eye.
In the most high and palmy state of Rome,
A little ere the mightiest Julius²² fell,
The graves stood tenantless and the sheeted dead
Did squeak and gibber in the Roman streets:
As stars with trains of fire and dews of blood,
Disasters in the sun; and the moist star²³
Upon whose influence Neptune's empire stands
Was sick almost to doomsday with eclipse²⁴.
And even the like precursor of fierce events,
As harbingers²⁵ preceding still the fates
And prologue to the omen coming on,
Have heaven and earth together demonstrated
Unto our climatures²⁶ and countrymen. —
- 57 [*Re-enter Ghost.*]
- 58 But soft, behold! lo where it comes again!
- 59 [*The Ghost spreads its arms.*]
- 60 I'll cross it, though it blast me. Stay, illusion!
If thou hast any sound, or use of voice,
Speak to me.
If there be any good thing to be done
That may to thee do ease and grace to me,
Speak to me.
If thou art privy to thy country's fate,
Which, happily, foreknowing may avoid,
O speak!
Or if thou hast uphoarded in thy life
Extorted treasure in the womb of earth,
For which, they say, you spirits oft walk in death,
Speak of it, stay and speak! [*The cock crows.*] Stop it, Marcellus.
- 61 **MARCELLUS:** Shall I strike at it with my partisan²⁷?
- 62 **HORATIO:** Do, if it will not stand.
- 63 **BERNARDO:** 'Tis here!
- 64 **HORATIO:** 'Tis here!
- 65 **MARCELLUS:** 'Tis gone!
- 66 [*Exit Ghost.*]

- 67 We do it wrong, being so majestic,
To offer it the show of violence,
For it is as the air, invulnerable,
And our vain blows malicious mockery.
- 68 **BERNARDO:** It was about to speak, when the cock crew²⁸.
- 69 **HORATIO:** And then it started like a guilty thing
Upon a fearful summons. I have heard,
The cock, that is the trumpet to the morn,
Doth with his lofty and shrill-sounding throat
Awake the god of day, and at his warning,
Whether in sea or fire, in earth or air,
The extravagant and erring spirit hies²⁹
To his confine; and of the truth herein
This present object made probation³⁰.
- 70 **MARCELLUS:** It faded on the crowing of the cock.
Some say that ever 'gainst that season comes
Wherein our Saviour's birth is celebrated,
This bird of dawning singeth all night long:
And then, they say, no spirit dares stir abroad,
The nights are wholesome, then no planets strike,
No fairy takes, nor witch hath power to charm,
So hallow'd and so gracious is the time.
- 71 **HORATIO:** So have I heard and do in part believe it.
But, look, the morn in russet mantle³¹ clad,
Walks o'er the dew of yon high eastward hill.
Break we our watch up, and by my advice,
Let us impart what we have seen to-night
Unto young Hamlet, for upon my life,
This spirit, dumb to us, will speak to him.
Do you consent we shall acquaint him with it,
As needful in our loves, fitting our duty?
- 72 **MARCELLUS:** Let's do't, I pray, and I this morning know
Where we shall find him most conveniently.
- 73 [*Exeunt.*]

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- ¹ **sick at heart:** in low spirits
- ² **liegemen ... Dane:** loyal subjects to the king of Denmark
- ³ **fantasy:** imagination
- ⁴ **approve:** confirm
- ⁵ **pole:** pole star
- ⁶ **Mark:** observe
- ⁷ **harrows:** distresses
- ⁸ **avouch:** guarantee
- ⁹ **parle:** parley
- ¹⁰ **eruption:** upheaval
- ¹¹ **foreign mart:** dealing with foreign markets
- ¹² **impress:** forced service
- ¹³ **toward:** in preparation
- ¹⁴ **seized of:** possessed of
- ¹⁵ **moiety:** portion
- ¹⁶ **carriage:** quality
- ¹⁷ **unimproved:** untried
- ¹⁸ **skirts:** outlying territories
- ¹⁹ **Shark'd up:** gathered up hastily
- ²⁰ **head:** source
- ²¹ **romage:** bustling activity
- ²² **Julius:** Roman emperor Julius Caesar, who was murdered in 44 BC
- ²³ **moist star:** moon
- ²⁴ **eclipse:** There were two lunar eclipses and a solar eclipse visible in England around the time the play was written, which caused much gloomy speculation.
- ²⁵ **harbingers:** advance messengers
- ²⁶ **climatures:** regions
- ²⁷ **partisan:** long-handled spear
- ²⁸ **crew:** crowed
- ²⁹ **hies:** hastens
- ³⁰ **probation:** proof
- ³¹ **russet mantle:** reddish brown cloak

Use "The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark" to answer questions 1-7.

1 Expectation: F.1(A)

Read this excerpt from paragraph 30.

BERNARDO: *Sit down awhile,
And let us once again assail your ears,
That are so fortified against our story,
What we have two nights seen.*

The word *fortified* comes from the Late Latin word *fortificare*, meaning "make strong." Based on the meaning of the root word, this excerpt implies that Bernardo believes —

- Ⓐ Horatio feels that the castle needs more guards.
- Ⓑ the castle walls require strengthening against the enemy.
- Ⓒ the story he has repeated frequently should now be forgotten.
- Horatio is not inclined to believe his story.

2 Expectation: F.12(A)

If this scene were presented today in a movie version, which section would most likely be presented as a flashback?

- Ⓐ Paragraph 28
- Ⓑ Paragraph 52
- Paragraph 54
- Ⓓ Paragraph 60

3 Expectation: F.4 Fig. 19(B)

According to the stage directions, what does the Ghost do to attract attention to itself?

- It opens its arms wide.
- Ⓑ It disappears in a puff of smoke.
- Ⓒ It appears suddenly beside Bernardo.
- Ⓓ It demands to speak with Horatio.

4 Expectation: F.1(B)

The use of the word *ratified* in paragraph 54 indicates that the loss of the inheritance of Fortinbras of Norway to the late King Hamlet was —

- Ⓐ a regrettable occurrence.
- Ⓑ questionable and probably unlawful.
- Ⓒ a rare occurrence.
- legal and honorable.

5 Expectation: F.2(A)

Which quotation from the selection best expresses the theme of good versus evil?

- Ⓐ *If you do meet Horatio and Marcellus, / The rivals of my watch, bid them make haste.*
- Ⓑ *Stay, illusion! / If thou hast any sound, or use of voice, / Speak to me.*
- *This bird of dawning singeth all night long: / And then, they say, no spirit dares stir abroad,*
- Ⓓ *How now, Horatio! you tremble and look pale: / Is not this something more than fantasy?*

6 Expectation: F.7(A)

In paragraph 56, the strange occurrences before the assassination of Julius Caesar are mentioned in order to indicate —

- Ⓐ the fear that the death of Caesar may affect the Danish court.
- the belief that the Ghost is a harbinger of evil.
- Ⓒ the similarity in power of Denmark and ancient Rome.
- Ⓓ the similarity between the Prince of Denmark and Julius Caesar.

7 Expectation: F.12(D)

Which best describes the change in tone of Horatio's speeches between the beginning and end of the scene?

- Ⓐ From uneasy to cheerful
- Ⓑ From grim to amused
- From skeptical to convinced
- Ⓓ From irate to apologetic



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Item Number	Reporting Category	Readiness or Supporting	Content Student Expectation	Correct Answer
Reading Selection 1				
1	1	Supporting	F.1(A)	D
2	2	Supporting	F.12(A)	C
3	2	Supporting	F.4 Fig. 19(B)	A
4	1	Readiness	F.1(B)	D
5	2	Readiness	F.2(A)	C
6	2	Supporting	F.7(A)	B
7	2	Supporting	F.12(D)	C

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