While reading

1 Look at the pictures in the book. On which pages can you see.
   a a sword? ...........................................
   b a ghost? ...........................................
   c a curtain? ........................................
   d a servant? ........................................
   e a lord? ............................................
   f poison? ............................................

2 Read the Introduction on pages v–viii and choose the right answer.
   a Hamlet wants to find / forget / punish his uncle.
   b Hamlet is a story about love / mystery / revenge.
   c Hamlet was written 200 / 300 / 400 years ago.
   d In the 1996 film, Hamlet is played by Robin Williams / Gerard Depardieu / Kenneth Branagh.
   e Shakespeare was unknown / unpopular / successful in his lifetime.

Act I

3 Put these people in the order that Hamlet talks to them.
   a Horatio   ☐
   b Claudius  ☐
   c Marcellus ☐
   d the Ghost ☐
   e Gertrude ☐

4 Who says these things? What do the underlined words mean?
   a ‘It is a crime against God.’ ............................................
   b ‘That was the worst day of my life.’ ............................................
   c ‘My Lord, I think I saw him last night.’ ............................................
   d ‘I order you to stay away from him.’ ............................................
   e ‘He’s listening too much to his imagination.’ ............................................
   f ‘He won the heart of my queen.’ ............................................

5 Why …
   a … does the ghost appear before Hamlet? ............................................
   b … is Hamlet furious? ............................................
   c … is Hamlet’s mother a weak woman? ............................................
   d … can’t Hamlet rest? ............................................

6 Choose the right answer.
   a Horatio and Marcellus have to promise they have not seen the ghost ….
      1) on Hamlet’s sword.
      2) on Hamlet’s father’s grave.
   b Hamlet tells Horatio and Marcellus that he will look and sound crazy but it will be ….
      1) reality.
      2) an act.
   c Hamlet says that the unhappiest time of all was ….
      1) the day he was born.
      2) the day he saw the ghost.

Act II

7 Choose the right answer.
   a Rosencrantz and Guildenstern have come to help ….
      1) Hamlet.
      2) Claudius.
      3) Ophelia.
   b Polonius feels … Hamlet.
      1) amused by
      2) angry with
      3) sorry for
   c Hamlet tells Rosencrantz and Guildenstern that he ….
      1) is bored with life.
      2) loves Ophelia.
      3) does not like plays.

8 Which of these words describe Hamlet, and why?
angry brave nervous pleased rude strange unsure wise

………………………………………………….
………………………………………………….
………………………………………………….
9 Tell the story. Which sentence comes first?
Write numbers 1–11 next to the sentences.

a Ophelia is afraid of Hamlet’s crazy eyes and words.

b Polonius tells the King and the Queen why he thinks Hamlet has acted strangely.

c Rosencrantz and Guildenstern arrive at Hamlet’s castle.

d Polonius, Gertrude and Claudius decide to hide and watch Hamlet and Ophelia talk.

e Hamlet decides to think of a plan.

f Hamlet does not know if the ghost is telling him the truth.

g Hamlet decides to ask the actors to play a story similar to the murder of his own father.

h Hamlet remembers that a good play can show the wicked secrets in men.

i Hamlet thinks that he is the least brave of all men.

j Rosencrantz and Guildenstern tell Hamlet that a group of actors are coming to act for him.

k Gertrude asks Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to help her son.

10 Match the following questions a–f to the answers 1–6.

a Who are the very good old friends of Prince Hamlet? …..

b What news is there from Norway? …..

c What does Polonius read to Claudius and Gertrude? …..

b In Polonius’s opinion, why did Hamlet stop eating and sleeping? …..

e Who is a ‘stupid old man’ to Hamlet? …..

f Who are coming to Elsinore to please Prince Hamlet? …..

1) Because he is madly in love with Ophelia.

2) Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

3) Polonius.

4) Hamlet’s love letters to Ophelia.

5) There will be no war for the moment.

6) A groups of actors.

Act III

11 Are these sentences about Hamlet right (√) or wrong (×)?

a He is afraid of death. ×

b He wants to marry Ophelia. √

c He sits next to Ophelia during the play. ×

d He is excited after the play. ×

e He is very angry with Rosencrantz and Guildenstern. √

f He decides to forgive Claudius.

Act IV

12 Who talks about these things, and why?

a worms …………………………………………

b flowers ………………………………………

c a letter ……………………………………..

d revenge ……………………………………

e swords ……………………………………..

Act V

13 Are these people angry with Hamlet? Why/Why not?

a Gertrude ……………………………………

b Claudius ……………………………………

c Rosencrantz ………………………………..

d Ophelia ……………………………………

e Laertes ……………………………………. …

After reading

14 Who are these sentences about?

a He talks to a skull …………………………

b They fight near a grave ………………………

c They die in England ………………………

d They ask for forgiveness ………………………

15 Work in pairs and discuss these questions.

a Who do you feel most sorry for at the end of the play? Why?

b Why doesn’t Hamlet kill Claudius earlier? Is he right to wait? Why/Why not?

c What is the worst thing that Hamlet does?
Hamlet

Act I
1 Underline the wrong word and put the right one.
   a Laertes comes to Denmark to see Hamlet become King. …………………
   b Hamlet is angry with his mother because she married Claudius only a year after his father died. …………………
   c Horatio tells Hamlet that Polonius and Ophelia saw the ghost of his father. …………………
   d Hamlet was told that the ghost of his father is dressed like a servant. …………………

2 Circle the right words.
   a Polonius orders Ophelia …..
      1) to stay away from Hamlet.
      2) to marry Hamlet.
   b Marcellus says that he and Horatio …..
      1) must protect Hamlet.
      2) must leave the castle.
   c The ghost of Hamlet’s father tells Hamlet …..
      1) that he was killed in a battle with Norway.
      2) that he was not murdered by an animal.

Act II
3 Match the questions and the answers.
   a Why is Polonius sorry? …..
   b What does the King of Norway want? …..
   c What did Polonius tell his daughter to do right after he found Hamlet’s letters? …..
   d What will Polonius do if he is wrong about Hamlet’s love for his daughter? …..
   e Who does Hamlet say Polonius is when he finds him in castle room? …..
   f What are the ‘words’ Hamlet is reading about? …..
      1) Because he realises he was wrong about Prince Hamlet’s love for his daughter.
      2) Lies.
      3) A fish-seller.
      4) He requests permission for Fortinbras and his mean to pass quietly through Denmark.
      5) He will become a farmer.
      6) He told her to lock herself up in her room and to receive no messages from him.

Act III
4 Are these sentences right (√) or wrong (✗)?
   a Rosencrantz and Guildenstern tell Gertrude that Hamlet was very rude to them. ❒
   b Gertrude thinks that Ophelia can make Hamlet well again with her sweetness and kindness. ❒
   c When Ophelia returns Hamlet his own letters, he recognises the letters are his. ❒

5 Circle the right words.
   a Ophelia feels that Hamlet’s words filled her ears with love and music / crazy words.
   b Claudius feels that Hamlet’s sadness hides a dark secret in his heart / a crazy idea in his mind.
   c Hamlet asks Horatio to watch his uncle / talk to Ophelia while the actors are playing the story.
   d Hamlet tells Ophelia that his father has been dead for two minutes / two hours.

Act IV
6 Finish the sentences.
   a Claudius sends Hamlet to England because he actually wants ……………………………
   b Claudius says that Ophelia has gone mad because ……………………………………….. …..
   c Laertes enters the castle with a crowd of men because he wants ……………………………
   d In his letter to Horatio, Hamlet tells him that ………………………………………….. …..

7 Choose the right word from the box.
   sword poison death murderer madness revenge
   a Claudius tells Laertes that the ………………… of his father actually wanted to kill him.
   b Laertes is sad because …………………….. has taken his father and ……………………. has taken his sister.
   c Claudius helps Laertes to take …………………….. on Hamlet.
   d Laertes and Claudius decide to ………………… the ………………… to kill Hamlet.

Act V
8 Are these sentences right (√) or wrong (✗)?
   a The workman says that Prince Hamlet was sent to England because the people there are as mad as he is. ❒
   b Hamlet is happy that Ophelia is dead. ❒
   c Hamlet found a letter ordering his own death in the room of two of his best friends. ❒
   d Hamlet wants to be friends with Laertes again because they are both in grief. ❒
   e Laertes forgives Hamlet and decides that he will not fight him. ❒