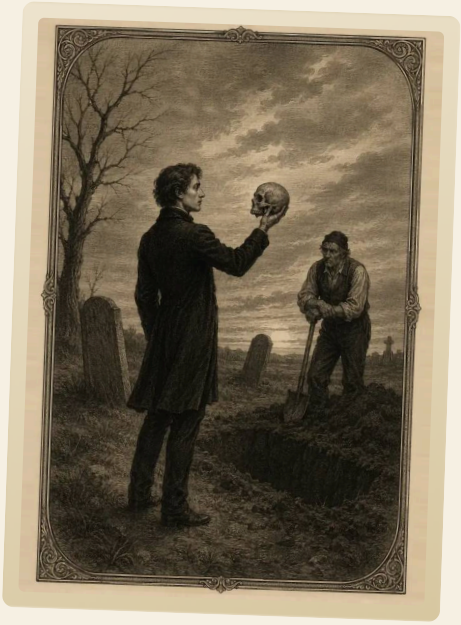
Daily Bard

QUOTATION SHEET

Hamlet: key quotation sheet

10 quotations worth knowing by heart, each with a plain-English reading, space for your notes, and a fill-the-gap test.



How to use this sheet

These are the 10 quotations from the **Hamlet study guide**, set out for revision. Part one gives each quotation with a plain-English reading and space for your own notes. Part two prints them again with a word missing from each line, so that you can test yourself.

- [ ] Read the quotation aloud twice. Sound helps memory more than staring does.
- [ ] In the note space, name one method (a device, a word choice, a feature of the verse) and the effect it has.
- [ ] Add one link: to a theme, to another moment in the text, or to a point of context.
- [ ] A day later, cover part one and complete part two from memory.

Part one: the quotations

> But I have that within which passes show,
> These but the trappings and the suits of woe.
>
> HAMLET · ACT 1, SCENE 2

Plain English: What I feel inside is beyond any outward display; black clothes are only the costume of grief.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> O, that this too, too sullied flesh would melt,
> Thaw, and resolve itself into a dew,
>
> HAMLET · ACT 1, SCENE 2

Plain English: I wish my stained body would simply dissolve into water and vanish.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> Something is rotten in the state of Denmark.
>
> MARCELLUS · ACT 1, SCENE 4

Plain English: There is a deep corruption in this country.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> The time is out of joint. O cursed spite
> That ever I was born to set it right!
>
> HAMLET · ACT 1, SCENE 5

Plain English: The age is dislocated like a bone, and it is my bad luck to be the one who has to reset it.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> The play's the thing
> Wherein I'll catch the conscience of the King.
>
> HAMLET · ACT 2, SCENE 2

Plain English: I will use the performance as a trap to expose the King's guilt.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> To be or not to be - that is the question:
> Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
> The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,
>
> HAMLET · ACT 3, SCENE 1

Plain English: To live or not to live: is it nobler to endure what fortune throws at us?

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> My words fly up, my thoughts remain below;
> Words without thoughts never to heaven go.
>
> CLAUDIUS · ACT 3, SCENE 3

Plain English: I said the prayer but did not mean it, and empty words do not reach heaven.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> Alas, poor Yorick! I knew him, Horatio - a fellow of infinite jest,
>
> HAMLET · ACT 5, SCENE 1

Plain English: Poor Yorick. I knew him, Horatio: a man of endless humour.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> There is a special providence in the fall of a sparrow. ... The readiness is all.
>
> HAMLET · ACT 5, SCENE 2

Plain English: Even a sparrow's death is part of God's design. What matters is to be ready.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> Now cracks a noble heart. Good night, sweet prince,
> And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.
>
> HORATIO · ACT 5, SCENE 2

Plain English: A noble heart breaks. Good night, dear prince; may angels sing you to your rest.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

Part two: test yourself

Fill each gap from memory, then check against part one. Mark the ones you missed and come back to them tomorrow.

> But I have that _____ which passes show,
> These but the _____ and the suits of woe.
>
> HAMLET · ACT 1, SCENE 2

> O, that this too, too _____ flesh would melt,
> Thaw, and _____ itself into a dew,
>
> HAMLET · ACT 1, SCENE 2

> _____ is rotten in the state of Denmark.
>
> MARCELLUS · ACT 1, SCENE 4

> The time is out of joint. O _____ spite
> That ever I was born to set it _____!
>
> HAMLET · ACT 1, SCENE 5

> The _____ the thing
> Wherein I'll catch the _____ of the King.
>
> HAMLET · ACT 2, SCENE 2

> To be or not to be - that is the _____:
> _____ 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
> The slings and arrows of _____ fortune,
>
> HAMLET · ACT 3, SCENE 1

> My words fly up, my _____ remain below;
> Words without _____ never to heaven go.
>
> CLAUDIUS · ACT 3, SCENE 3

> Alas, poor Yorick! I knew him, Horatio - a fellow of _____ jest,
>
> HAMLET · ACT 5, SCENE 1

There is a special _____ in the fall of a sparrow. ... The readiness is all.

HAMLET · ACT 5, SCENE 2

Now _____ a noble heart. Good night, sweet prince,
And _____ of angels sing thee to thy rest.

HORATIO · ACT 5, SCENE 2

Next steps

Turn three of these quotations into full paragraphs with the **essay planner**, and check your method against the **close reading toolkit**. For a small daily dose of the language, **Daily Bard** shows one passage each morning with a plain-English reading on the back of the leaf.



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