

# Hamlet

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



# HAMLET



**William Shakespeare**



– ADAPTED BY –

**Patricia Hutchison**





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**89**



**Scene 2** .....



**101**



## ACT 3



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**151**



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**ACT 5    Scene 1 ..... 350**



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# — CAST OF CHARACTERS —



**HAMLET, PRINCE OF DENMARK: Son of the dead king;**



**nephew of the present king**



**CLAUDIUS, KING OF DENMARK: Hamlet's Uncle**



**GERTRUDE, QUEEN OF DENMARK: Hamlet's mother;**



**now married to Claudius**



**GHOST: Hamlet's murdered father**



# — CAST OF CHARACTERS —



**POLONIUS: Chief adviser to Claudius**



**HORATIO: Hamlet's loyal friend**



**LAERTES: Polonius's son; Ophelia's brother**



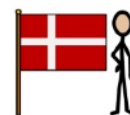
**OPHELIA: Polonius's daughter; Laertes's sister**



**ROSENCRANTZ and GUILDENSTERN: Hamlet's former classmates**



**VOLTIMAND, CORNELIUS, and OSRIC: Danish courtiers**



# — CAST OF CHARACTERS —



**MARCELLUS, BERNARDO, and FRANCISCO: Castle guards**



+



**REYNALDO: Polonius's servant**



**GRAVEDIGGERS, LORDS, ATTENDANTS, ACTORS**



**SAILORS and SERVANTS**

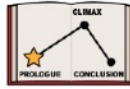


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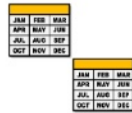
# — The Introduction —



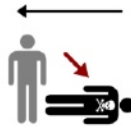
About 500 years ago, Hamlet's father, the



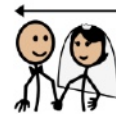
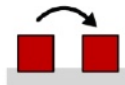
500



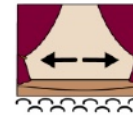
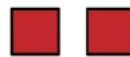
king of Denmark, was murdered by his own



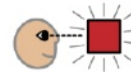
brother, Claudius. Then Claudius quickly married



Hamlet's mother, Gertrude. As the play opens, the



ghost of Hamlet's father appears.



HAMLET

He tells his son who murdered



him. And he tells Hamlet to get



revenge. As the play unfolds, Hamlet tries to



talk himself into murdering Claudius.



This is Shakespeare's most famous play,



known for the troubled character of Hamlet.



# ACT 1



## — Scene 1 —



(Francisco is at his post. He's



guarding Elsinore castle. Bernardo enters.)



**BERNARDO:** The clock has struck 12. I'll



12

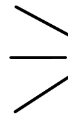
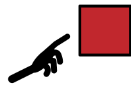


take over the watch now, Francisco.



HAMLET

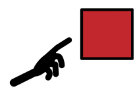
FRANCISCO: Thank you. It's so cold.



I'm upset.



BERNARDO: Has it been quiet tonight ?



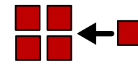
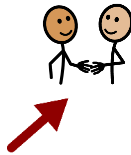
FRANCISCO: Yes.



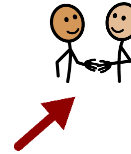
**BERNARDO:** Goodnight. Tell my partners to



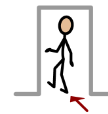
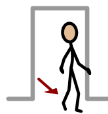
hurry. They are guarding too.



**FRANCISCO:** I think I hear them now.

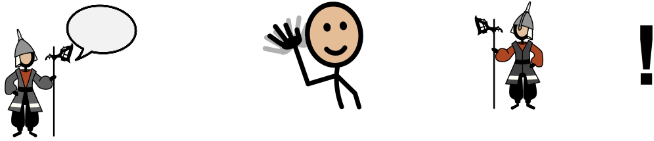


(Horatio and Marcellus enter. Francisco exits.)



HAMLET

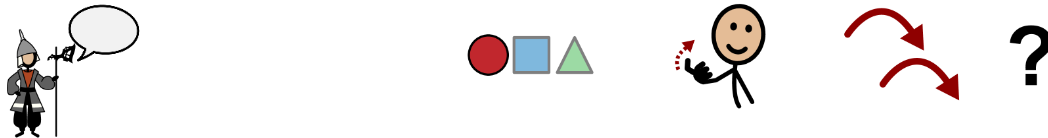
**MARCELLUS:** Hello, Bernardo !



**BERNARDO:** Welcome, Horatio and Marcellus.



**MARCELLUS:** Has the thing come again ?




**BERNARDO:** I haven't seen it.

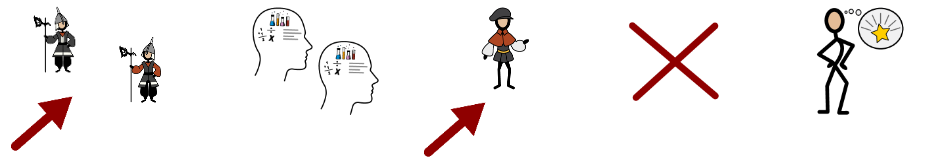




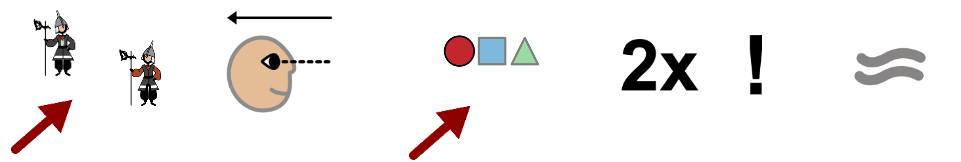
**MARCELLUS:** Horatio says it's all in



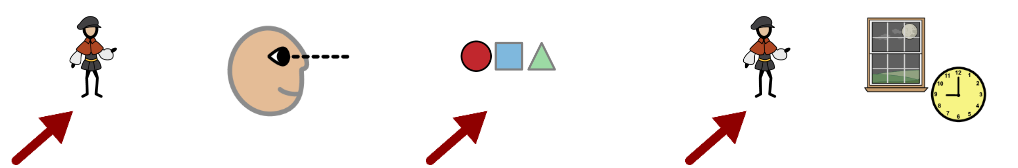
our minds. He doesn't believe




we saw it twice ! Maybe



he'll see it for himself tonight.



**HORATIO:** It won't appear.

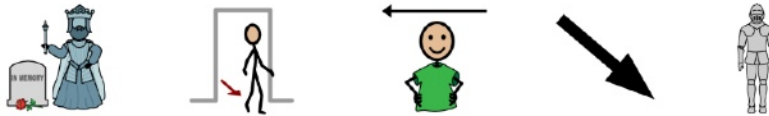


HAMLET

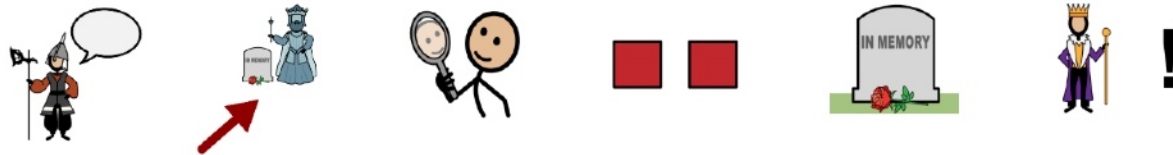
MARCELLUS: Quiet ! It's coming !



 (The Ghost enters, dressed in armor.)



BERNARDO: It looks like the dead king !



 (To the Ghost):



**HORATIO:** Who are you ? Are you



?



our

dead

king ?

Speak !



?

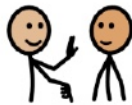


!

**BERNARDO:** It's leaving.



**HORATIO:** Stay ! Speak !



!



!

 (The Ghost exits.):

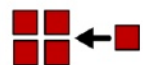
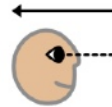


HAMLET

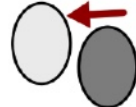
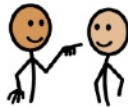
**BERNARDO:** What do you think now,



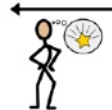
**Horatio ? You saw it too.**



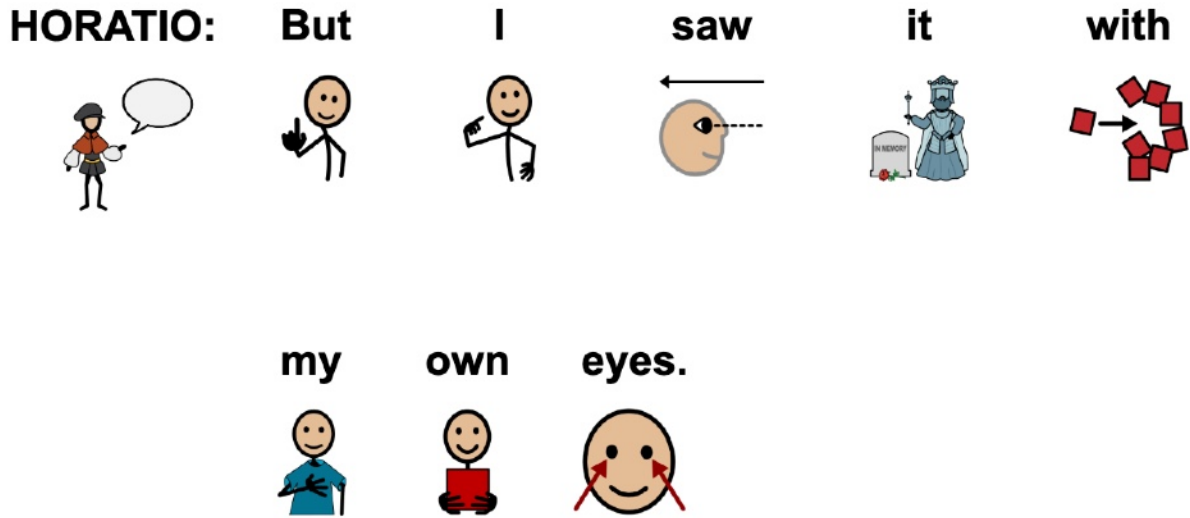
**You look pale.**



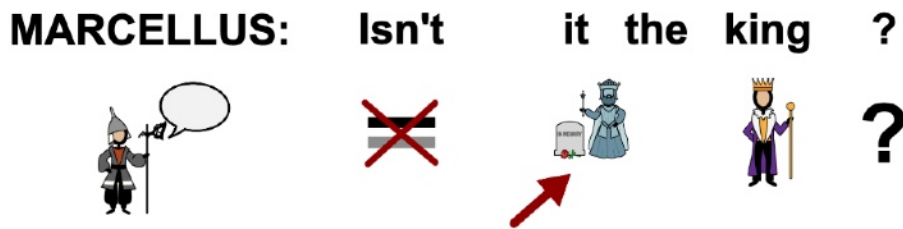
**HORATIO:** I would not have believed it.



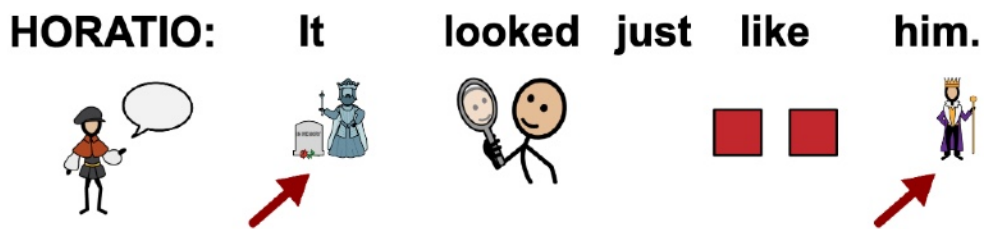
**HORATIO: But I saw it with my own eyes.**



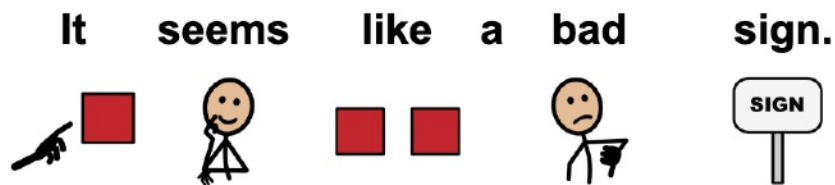
**MARCELLUS: Isn't it the king ?**



**HORATIO: It looked just like him.**

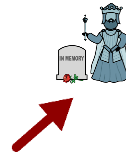


**It seems like a bad sign.**



HAMLET

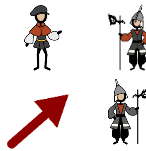
MARCELLUS: Why do you think he's



come here ? And why does



our country seem to be getting



ready for war ?





**HORATIO:**

**I'll**

**tell**

**you**

**what**

**I've**



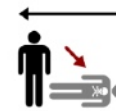
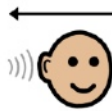
**heard.**

**Our**

**last**

**king**

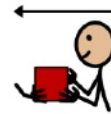
**killed**



**King Fortinbras of Norway.**

**We**

**took**



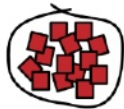
**all**

**their**

**land.**

**His**

**son**



**is**

**young Fortinbras.**



HAMLET

HORATIO:

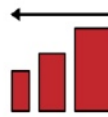
He has a temper. And he's



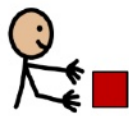
+



foolish. Now he's raised an army.



He wants the land back. That's

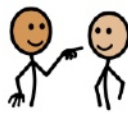


why we're getting ready.

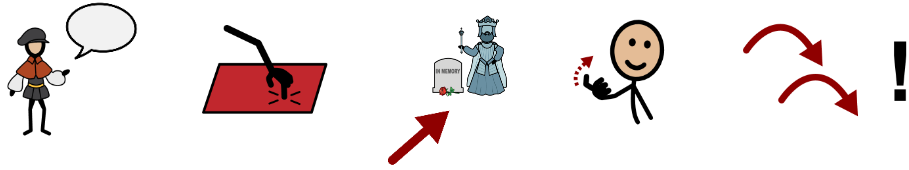


BERNARDO:

I think you're right.



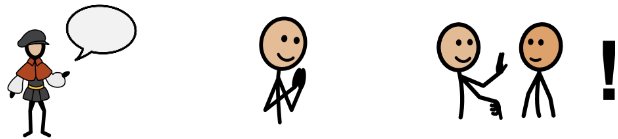
**HORATIO: Here it comes again !**



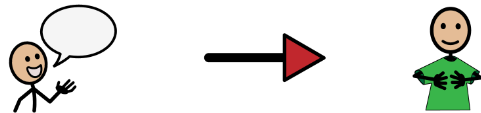
 **(The Ghost enters again.)**



**HORATIO: Please stay !**



**Speak to me.**



HAMLET

HORATIO: Can I help you in



any way ? Can you help



your country somehow ?



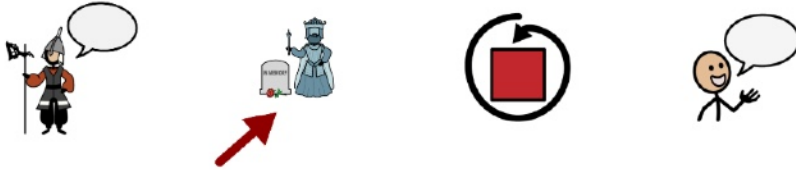
Please speak !



(A rooster crows. The Ghost exits.)



**BERNARDO:** It was about to speak.



Then the rooster crowed.



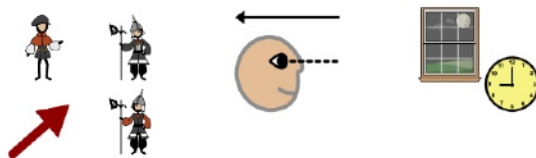
**HORATIO:** Ghosts don't come during the day.



Let's tell young Hamlet what

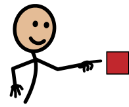


we've seen tonight.



HAMLET

**HORATIO: Maybe this ghost will speak**



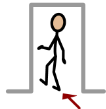
**to**

**him.**



**(All**

**exit.)**





# ACT 1



## — Scene 2 —



(King Claudius, Queen Gertrude, Prince Hamlet,



Polonius, Laertes, Voltimand, Cornelius,



lords, and attendants enter a room

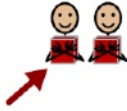


in Elsinore castle.)

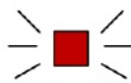
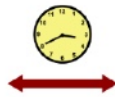


HAMLET

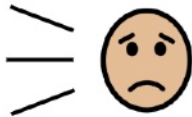
**KING: The memory of our dear brother's**



**death is still fresh. We**



**are very sad. Yet, we**



**must think of our kingdom. We**



**need a leader in wartime.**



**KING:**



**So**



**I**



**have**



**married**



**my**



**former**



**sister-in-law.**



**Young**



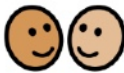
**Fortinbras**



**thinks**



**we're**



**weak.**



**He**



**thinks**



**our**



**late**



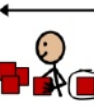
**brother's**



**death**



**has**



**left**

**us**



**puzzled.**



HAMLET

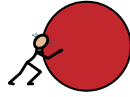
**KING:**



**He's**



**trying to win**



**back the**



**land**



**his**



**father**



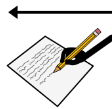
**lost.**



**We**



**have written a letter**



**to the king**



**of Norway.**



**KING: He's the uncle of young Fortinbras.**



**But**



**he's**



**ill.**



**He**



**doesn't**



**know**



**what**



**his**



**nephew**



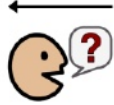
**is doing.**



HAMLET

**KING:**

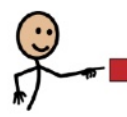
**We asked him to order**



**his nephew to leave us alone.**



**Cornelius and Voltimand, take this**



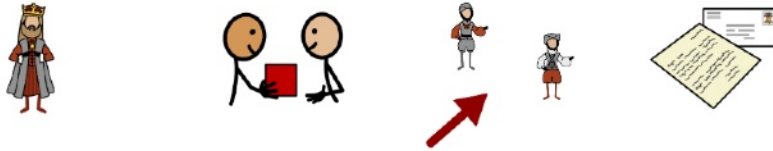
**letter to the king of Norway.**



**Quickly !**



 (King Claudius hands them a letter.)



CORNELIUS and VOLTIMAND: Yes, my lord.



 (They bow and exit.)



KING: Now, Laertes, what's your news ?



You have a request.



HAMLET

LAERTES:

I

ask

your permission, my



lord, to return to France.



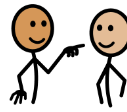
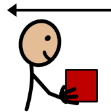
I

gave

you

my

support.



Now

I

wish

to go.



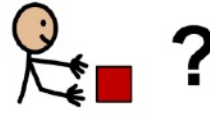


**KING:**

**Do you have your father's okay ?**



**What does Polonius want ?**



**LAERTES:**

**Yes, he approves.**

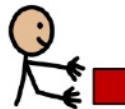


**KING:**

**Enjoy your youth, Laertes.**



**Do what you want.**




# HAMLET

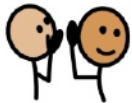
**KING:** Now, my nephew and



my son, Hamlet ...



 **(aside):**



**HAMLET:** I may be your nephew.



**HAMLET:**

**But I will never be**

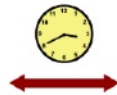
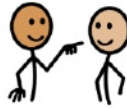


**your son !**



**KING:**

**Why are you still**



**so upset ?**



**QUEEN:**

**Hamlet, cheer up !**



# HAMLET

**QUEEN:**

**All living things must die.**



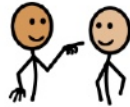
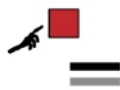
**HAMLET:**

**Yes, I know.**



**KING:**

**It is sweet of you, Hamlet,**



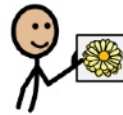
**to miss your father.**



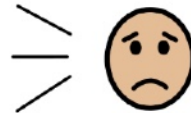
**KING: But to keep on crying**



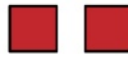
**is unmanly. It shows weakness.**



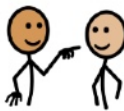
**Please stop being so sad.**



**Think of me as a father. I love**

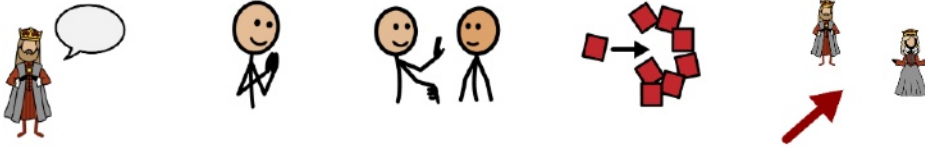


**you like my own son !**



HAMLET

**KING: Please stay with us.**



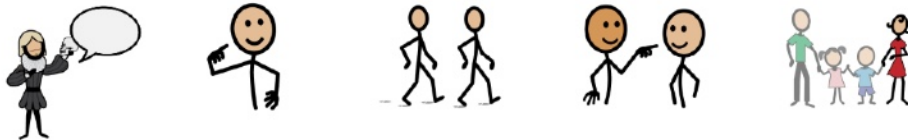
**QUEEN: Yes, please stay. Don't go**



**back to school in Wittenberg.**



**HAMLET: I will obey you, Mother.**



**(All exit but Hamlet.)**



HAMLET:



I



wish



I



could



kill



myself !



I



can't



believe



my



father has been dead for two



2

months.



He



was a fine



king.



HAMLET

HAMLET:

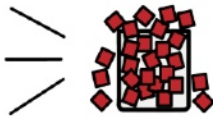
And he loved my mother



+



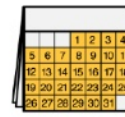
so much.



But



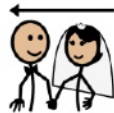
within a month,



she



married



my



uncle !



What a



weak

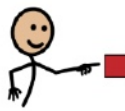


woman !



!

This



marriage



won't



work.



But



I




must be



quiet !

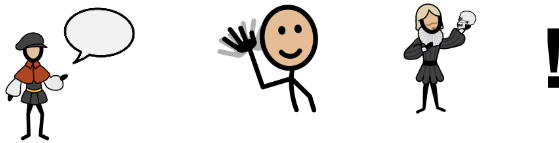




 (Horatio, Marcellus, and Bernardo enter.)




**HORATIO:** Hello, Hamlet !



**HAMLET:** Hello, Horatio ! What brings



you here ?  
 ?

HAMLET

HORATIO:

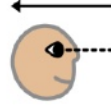
I

think

I

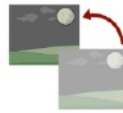
saw

your



father

last night.



HAMLET:

What

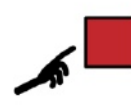
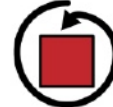
?

Tell

me

about

it.



HORATIO:

A ghostly form came

while


we




were standing watch.




**HORATIO:** It looked just like your



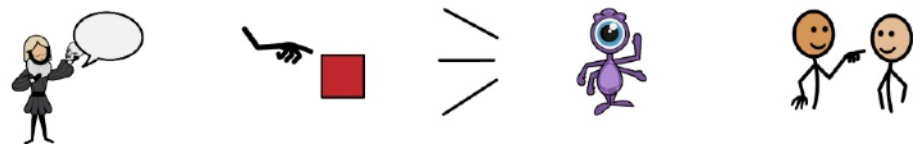
father. It didn't speak




to us.



**HAMLET:** That's very odd. Are you



on watch tonight ?

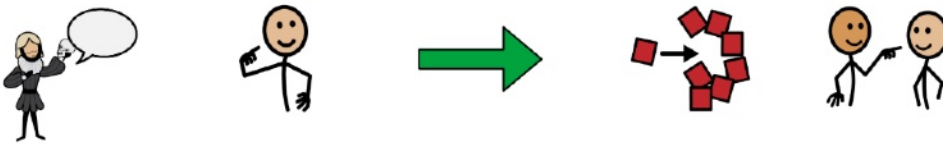


HAMLET

MARCELLUS and BERNARDO: Yes, we are.



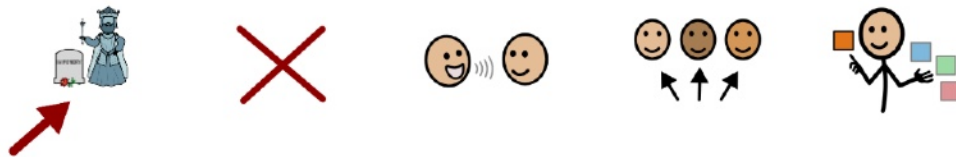
HAMLET: I'll go with you. If



it comes, I'll speak to



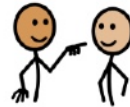
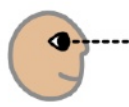
it. Don't tell anyone else



about this.




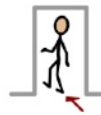
**HAMLET:** I'll see you tonight.



**ALL:** Good-bye.



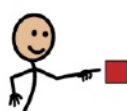
 (Horatio, Marcellus, and Bernardo exit.)



**HAMLET:** My father's spirit — dressed in



armor ! This isn't good.



HAMLET

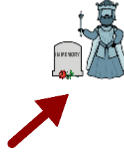
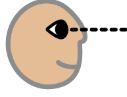
**HAMLET:**

**I'll**

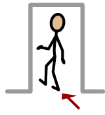
**see**

**him**

**tonight !**



**(Hamlet exits.)**



# ACT 1

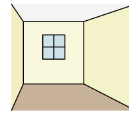
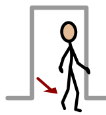


## — Scene 3 —



(Laertes and Ophelia enter a room

in



Polonius's house.)



LAERTES: Farewell. I am returning

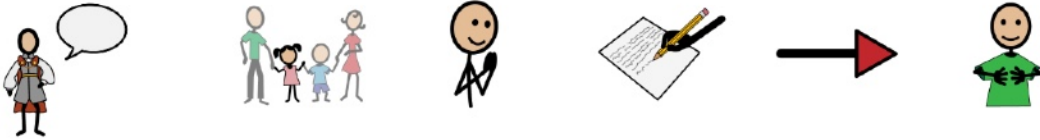


to

France.



**LAERTES:** Sister, please write to me.



**OPHELIA:** Of course I will.



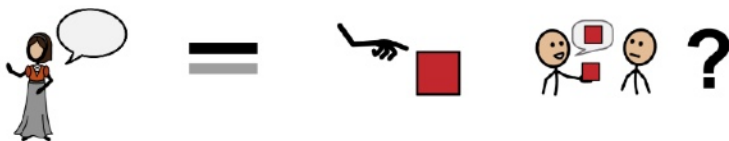
**LAERTES:** Be careful of Hamlet and his



love. It won't last.



**OPHELIA:** Is that true ?





LAERTES:

He

may

love

you

now.



But

remember

his

position.

He



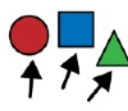
can't

do

everything

he'd

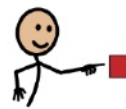
like



to.

The safety of this

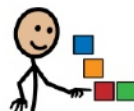
country depends



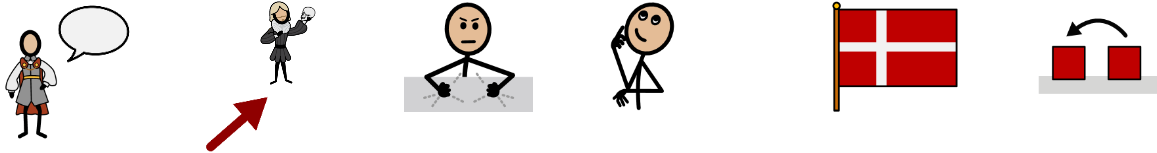
on

his

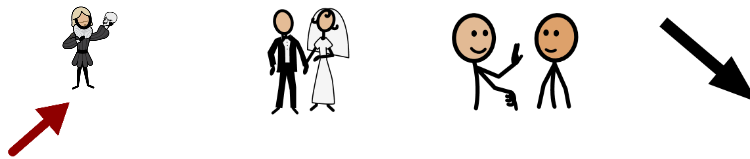
choices.



LAERTES: He must think of Denmark before



he can marry. Stay in



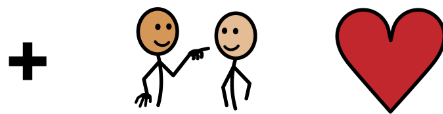
control. Watch out for desire. Or



you might lose your honor.



And your heart.



**OPHELIA:**



**I'll**



**be**



**careful.**



**But**



**you**



**should**



**take**



**your**



**own**



**advice.**

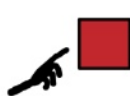


**(Polonius enters.)**



**POLONIUS:**

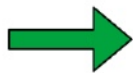
**It's**



**time for you to**



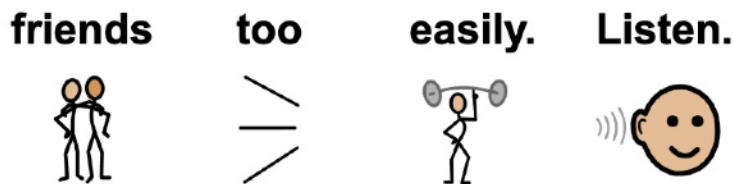
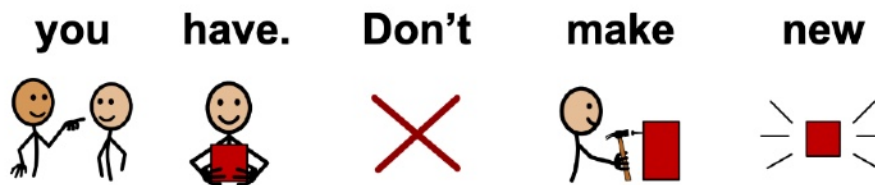
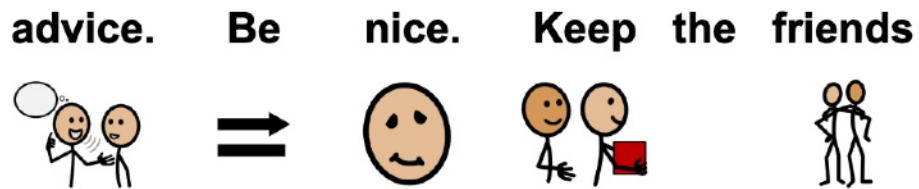
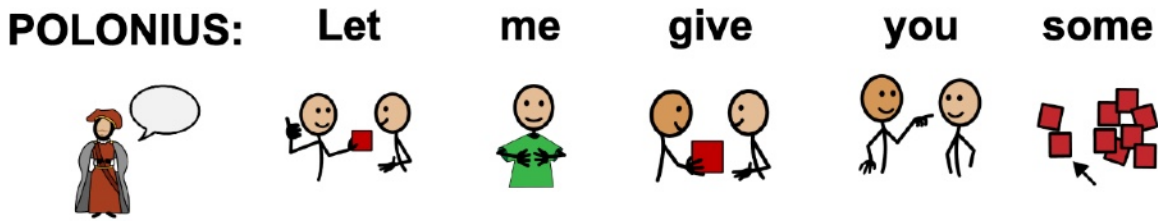
**go,**



**son.**



HAMLET



**POLONIUS:**



**But**



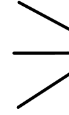
**don't**



**talk**



**too**



**much.**



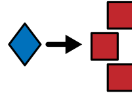
**Don't**



**judge**



**others.**



**Don't**



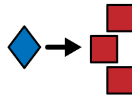
**borrow**



**from**



**others.**



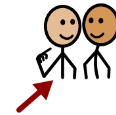
**Don't**



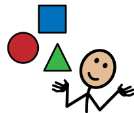
**lend**



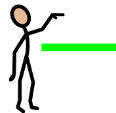
**them**



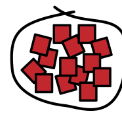
**anything.**



**Above**



**all,**



**be**



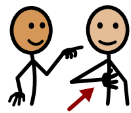
**true**



**to**



**yourself.**



HAMLET

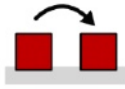
**POLONIUS:**

**Then**

**you**

**won't be**

**fake**



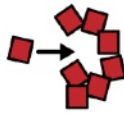
**with**

**anyone.**

**Goodbye.**

**My**

**blessings**

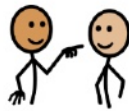
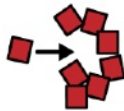
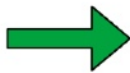


**go**

**with**

**you**

**!**



**LAERTES:**

**Good-bye, Father.**

**Good-bye, Ophelia.**



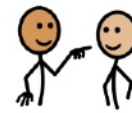
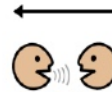
**Remember**

**what**

**I've**

**told**

**you.**



**OPHELIA:** I will.



 **(Laertes exits.)**



**POLONIUS:** What did he say



to you ?

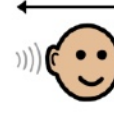
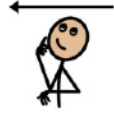


**OPHELIA:** Something about Hamlet.



HAMLET

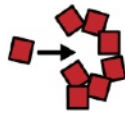
**POLONIUS: I thought so. I've heard**



**that you have been spending**



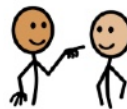
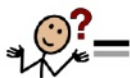
**a lot of time with Hamlet lately.**



**People are talking.**



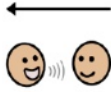
**What's between you ?**





OPHELIA:

He has told me he



has feelings for me.

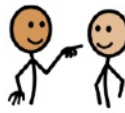


POLONIUS:

Feelings ? Do you believe him ?



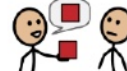
?



?

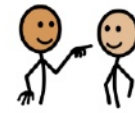
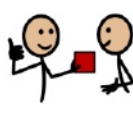
OPHELIA:

Yes. He's telling the truth.



POLONIUS:

Don't let him trap you.



HAMLET

**POLONIUS:**

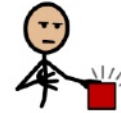
**Don't**

**take**

**him**

**seriously.**

**Don't**



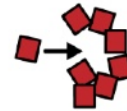
**spend**

**any**

**time**

**alone**

**with**



**him.**

**In**

**fact,**

**don't**

**even**



**talk**

**to**

**him.**

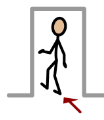
**That's an order !**



**OPHELIA:**    **Yes,**        **sir.**



**(Polonius and Ophelia exit.)**




# ACT 1



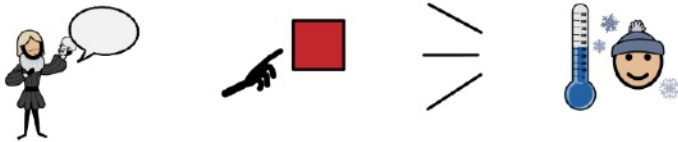
## — Scene 4 —



 (Hamlet, Horatio, and Marcellus enter.)



**HAMLET:** It's very cold.



What time is it ?

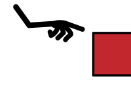


**HORATIO:** I think it's almost midnight.

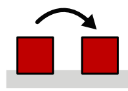


HAMLET

MARCELLUS: No, it's past that.



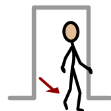
HORATIO: Then the spirit should be



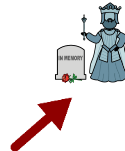
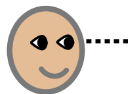
coming soon.



 (The Ghost enters.)



HORATIO: Look, here it comes !

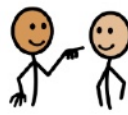


**HAMLET:**

**I will speak to you.**



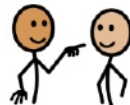
**I'll call you Hamlet, King,**



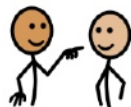
**Father. Please answer me ! Why**



**are you here ? Why are**



**you dressed in armor ?**

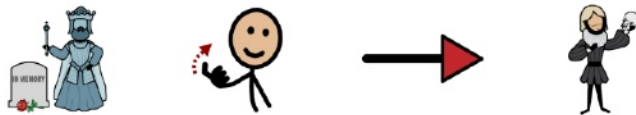


HAMLET

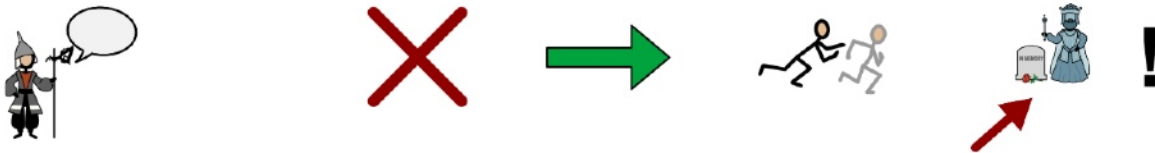
HAMLET: What should we do ?



 (The Ghost motions to Hamlet.)



MARCELLUS: Do not go after it !



HAMLET: It will not speak to



us unless I follow it.



**HAMLET:**

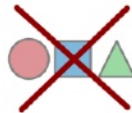
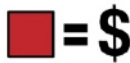
**Why should I be**



**afraid ? My life is**



**worth nothing. I'll follow it.**

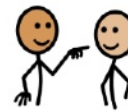
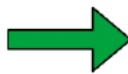


 **(to the Ghost):**



**HAMLET:**

**Go on. I'll follow you.**





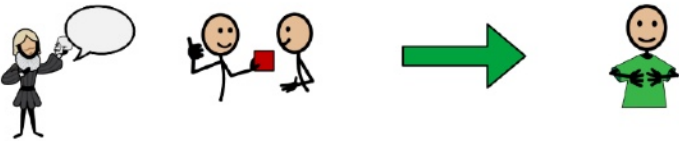
 (holding him back):



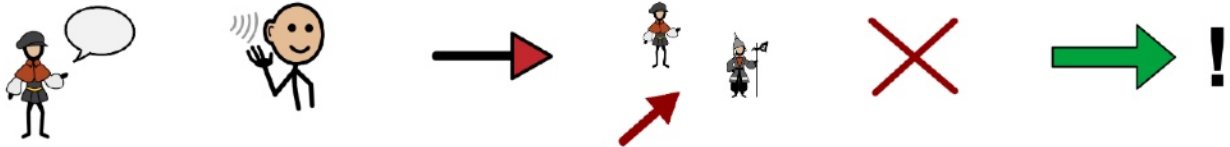
**MARCELLUS:** I won't let you go !



**HAMLET:** Let go of me.



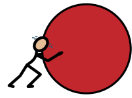
**HORATIO:** Listen to us. Don't go !



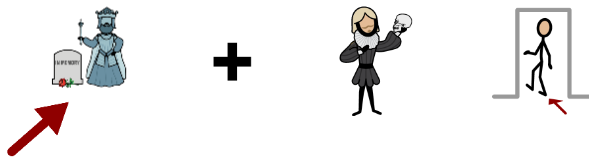
**HAMLET:** I have to.



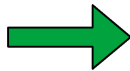
HAMLET: Don't try to stop me !



 (The Ghost and Hamlet exit.)



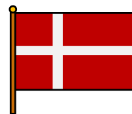
MARCELLUS: Let's go after him.



Something is rotten here



in Denmark.

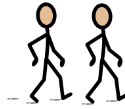


HAMLET

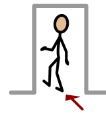
**HORATIO: Heaven will take care of it !**



**MARCELLUS: No, let's follow him.**



 **(Horatio and Marcellus exit.)**



# ACT 1



## — Scene 5 —



(The Ghost and Hamlet enter a remote part



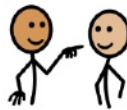
+



of the castle.)



HAMLET: Where are you taking me ?



Speak ! Or I'll stop.



!

or



HAMLET

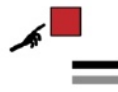
**GHOST:**

**Listen**

**to**

**me.**

**It is**



**almost**

**time for me**

**to go.**



**I**

**must**

**give**

**myself**

**up**



**to the flames.**

**Listen.**



**GHOST:**

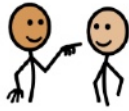


**And**

+



**when**



**you**

**hear,**



**you**



**will**



**need to**



**take**

**revenge.**



**HAMLET:**



**What**



**?**

**?**

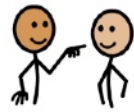
**GHOST:**



**I am**



**your**



**father's**



**spirit.**



HAMLET

**GHOST:** If you ever loved me,



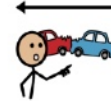
you must make someone pay



for my murder !



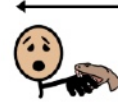
**HAMLET:** Murder ! Tell me what happened.



I'll take revenge.



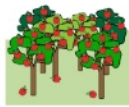
**GHOST:** The story is that a snake bit me



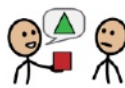
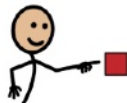
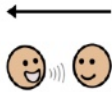
while I was sleeping in



the orchard. All Denmark has been



told this lie. But the snake



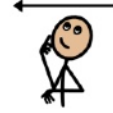
now wears my crown.



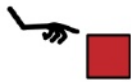


HAMLET

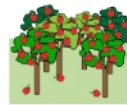
HAMLET: My uncle ! I thought so.



GHOST: Yes, that beast. While I



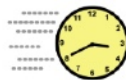
was sleeping in the orchard, he



put poison in my ear.



I died fast.



HAMLET

**GHOST:**

**In**

**seconds,**

**I**

**lost**

**my**



**life.**

**My**

**crown.**

**My**

**queen.**



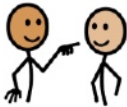
**You**

**must**

**get**

**revenge.**

**But**



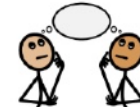
**don't**

**hurt**

**your**

**mother.**

**Thinking**



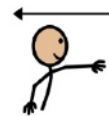
**about**

**what**

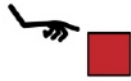
**she**

**has**

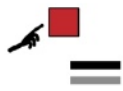
**done.**



**GHOST:** That will be her punishment.



**It is almost morning.**



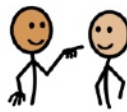
**Good-bye ! Hamlet, remember me !**



**(The Ghost exits.)**



**HAMLET:** Remember you !



HAMLET

HAMLET:

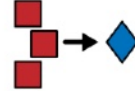
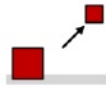
I'll

wipe

away

all

other



memories.

Your

wish

will live



in

my

brain.

Oh,

evil



woman !

Oh, smiling,

evil

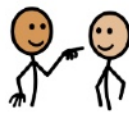
villain !



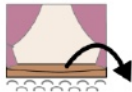
**HAMLET:**    **Father,**    **I**    **swear**    **I'll**



**remember**    **you**    **!**



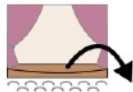
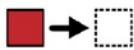
 **(from**    **offstage):**



**HORATIO:**    **My**    **lord**    **!**



 **(from**    **offstage):**



# HAMLET



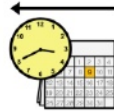
**MARCELLUS: Lord Hamlet !**



**(Horatio and Marcellus enter.)**



**MARCELLUS: What happened ?**



**HORATIO:** What did he say



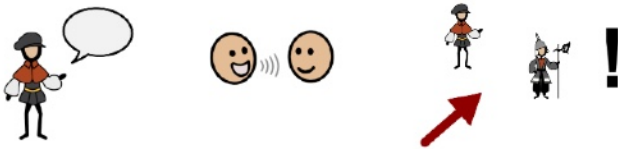
to you ?



**HAMLET:** Good news !



**HORATIO:** Tell us !

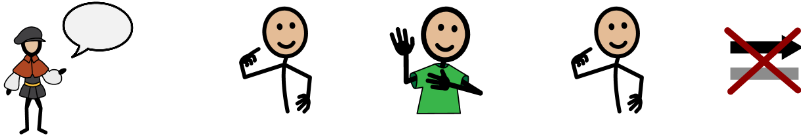


**HAMLET:** No, you'll tell the secret.

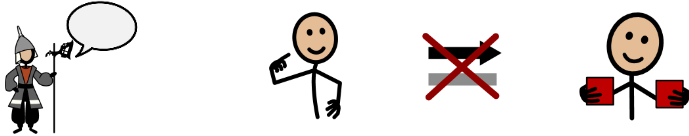


# HAMLET

**HORATIO:** I promise I won't.



**MARCELLUS:** I won't either.



**HAMLET:** Then keep this secret.



**There's a villain living in Denmark.**





**HORATIO:** We don't need a ghost



to tell us that.



**HAMLET:** You're right. Let's shake hands



and part. But promise me








one thing.

1









HAMLET


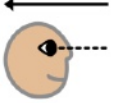
**HORATIO:** What is it ?



**HAMLET:** Don't tell anyone what you



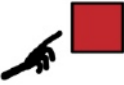



have seen tonight.



**HORATIO and MARCELLUS:** We won't.



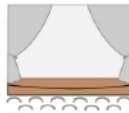
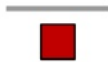
**HAMLET:** Swear to it.



**HAMLET: On my sword.**



 **(from beneath the stage):**



**GHOST: Swear.**



**HAMLET: Put your hands on**



**my sword.**



HAMLET

HAMLET:

Promise

to

never

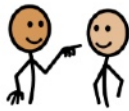
tell

what

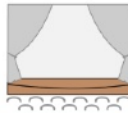


you've

heard.



(from beneath the stage):



GHOST:

Swear.



HAMLET:

Rest,

troubled

spirit !





(Horatio and Marcellus swear.)



+

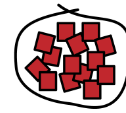


**HAMLET:**

**Thank you, gentlemen.**

**Let's**

**all**



**go.**

**And remember, not a word.**



+

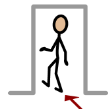


And It The  
**WORD**  
Up



**(All**

**exit.)**



yes



# Hamlet, Act 1

no



believe 	appear 	quiet 	watch 	ghost 	armor 
speak 	kill 	dead 	king 	sign 	war 
crow 	marry 	weak 	army 	Hamlet 	Claudius 
love 	dress 	upset 	kingdom 	spirit 	advice 
trap 	swear 	afraid 	revenge 	poison 	secret 

Within each category, pictures are listed from left to right in the order in which they appear in the text.