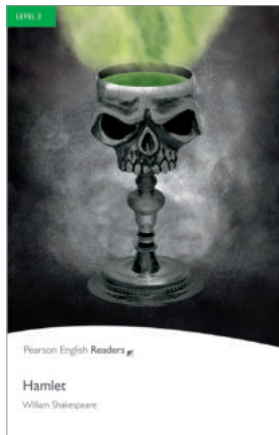


# Hamlet

William Shakespeare



## About the author

Although Shakespeare is one of the world's greatest writers, surprisingly little is known about his life, especially his early years in Stratford. However, we do know that:

- a) he was born on 23 April 1564 and died on his 52nd birthday, in 1616;
- b) his mother, Mary Arden, came from a higher social background than his father, who was a civil servant;
- c) he went to a good school but did not attend university;
- d) in 1582 he married Anne Hathaway and they had three children;
- e) he wrote 37 plays, sometimes writing three plays a year! He also wrote poetry, including a number of beautiful sonnets.

Some of his plays are: *The Taming of the Shrew* (1591), *Richard III* (1592), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (1594), *Romeo and Juliet* (1595), *The Merchant of Venice* (1596), *Henry V* (1599), *Much Ado About Nothing* (1599), *Julius Caesar* (1599), *Twelfth Night* (1600), *Hamlet* (1601), *Othello* (1604), *King Lear* (1605), *Macbeth* (1605), *Antony and Cleopatra* (1606), *The Tempest* (1611).

## Summary

The King of Denmark, is dead and has been succeeded not by his son, Hamlet, but by his brother and killer, Claudius. Soon after the funeral, Claudius marries his brother's widow, Gertrude. Hamlet, haunted by the spectre of his father and maddened by his inner ghosts seeks to avenge the death of the King.

**Act I:** Hamlet, still upset by his father's death, sees the ghost of his father, who tells him that he was murdered by Claudius. The Ghost asks his son to avenge his death. Hamlet pretends to go mad. Polonius, the Lord Chamberlain, forbids his daughter, Ophelia, to see Hamlet.

**Act II:** Ophelia tells Polonius that Hamlet has been lurking about her room and speaking nonsense. She shows Hamlet's love letters to her father. Polonius assumes that Hamlet is madly in love with his daughter and that he has been acting strangely ever since he was forbidden to see his beloved. Polonius informs this to the King and they stage a scene to find out whether or not Hamlet is sick with love.

**Act III:** Spied on by Polonius and Claudius, Ophelia returns Hamlet's love letters and is violently rejected by him. This will have a terrible effect on her. A group of travelling actors arrives at the court. Hamlet asks them to perform a play in which a king is murdered by his nephew. He hopes that the story, which is similar to the murder of his father by Claudius, will force Claudius to betray his guilt. Hamlet is right: Claudius is upset by the play. Hamlet is summoned to his mother's room, where he angrily criticises her for her hasty marriage. He accidentally kills Polonius, who is hiding behind a curtain, believing him to be Claudius.

**Act IV:** Claudius sends Hamlet to England, planning to have him murdered. Laertes, Polonius's son, returns to Denmark from France, demanding revenge for his father's death. Ophelia, mad with grief, drowns herself.

**Act V:** Hamlet returns from England, having discovered Claudius's plot to have him killed. He confronts Laertes and Claudius at Ophelia's funeral. Claudius plots with Laertes to kill Hamlet with a poisoned sword in a swordfight. The plot goes wrong and Laertes dies. Gertrude drinks from a poisoned cup intended for Hamlet and dies. Hamlet, wounded by the poisoned sword, kills Claudius before he, too, dies. Young Fortinbras, Prince of Norway, enters and claims the throne of Denmark for himself.

## About the films

Many films have been made of the play. The most well-known were made in: 1948 – with Laurence Olivier as Hamlet. It won four Oscars, including Best Picture and Best Actor; 1969 – with Nicol Williamson as Hamlet and Anthony Hopkins as Claudius; 1996 – with Kenneth Branagh as Hamlet and Kate Winslet as Ophelia.

## Background and themes

Shakespeare's plays are famous throughout the world for their poetry and their insights into the nature of life and the human condition. A large number of them are set in

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the south of Europe, particularly Italy. However, he chose gloomy northern European landscapes for three of his darkest tragedies: *Macbeth*, *King Lear* and *Hamlet*.

The story of *Hamlet* is found in the folk literature of Iceland, Ireland and Denmark. The earliest reference we have to Hamlet is in an eleventh-century Icelandic poem.

Shakespeare's play is as widely read, seen and performed today as it was four hundred years ago. One of the main reasons is that Hamlet himself is a character that people will always identify with. He is a complex character – his sense of honour and duty is in constant conflict with his inner doubts and uncertainties. This confusion leads to delay and indecision and, ultimately, to final tragedy.

Apart from the complex nature of Hamlet himself, there are other themes:

**Madness:** Hamlet pretends to be mad to conceal his indecision. But this play backfires, leading to, among other things, Ophelia's genuine descent into madness over Hamlet's unintentional murder of her father.

**Disease and poison:** 'Something is rotten in the state of Denmark'. Poison is the main instrument of death in the story.

**Revenge:** In a traditional revenge tragedy, the hero plans his revenge. In *Hamlet*, the tragedy stems from the hero's doubt and uncertainty. Many lives would have been saved if Hamlet had just killed his uncle earlier.

**Destiny and fate:** The appearance of the Ghost is responsible for everything. Does Hamlet have a choice in what he does, or is there some great plan which makes everything inevitable?

## Discussion activities

### Before reading

- 1 **Group work:** Put students into small groups. Ask them the following questions: **(a)** What Shakespeare plays do you know? **(b)** What do you know about the characters/story/setting of any of these plays? **(c)** What do you know about Hamlet?  
Discuss group findings as a class.
- 2 **Write:** Write these words on the board: *castle, ghost, grave, mad, poison, secret, revenge, wicked*. Ask students to write sentences using these words. Students read out their sentences and they write the best ones on the board.

- 3 **Predict:** Ask students to look at the cover, title and content page of the book. Guide them with these instructions: *Look at the title and book cover in pairs. What do they tell you about the story? Read the content page and discuss what the book will be about. Write a few lines on this.*
- 4 **Write:** Ask students to work in groups. They should write a short paragraph about the story using at least ten of the words below: *In groups, pick ten words and write a story about Hamlet.*  
kill uncle curtain grief crazy death God  
Heaven Hell lord nephew skull sword worm  
Ask students to look up the words they do not know in the Word List at the back of the book.
- 5 **Discuss:** Ask students to read the Introduction in pairs. Guide them with these questions: *Read the Introduction in pairs and discuss with another student: (a) What problems has Hamlet got? (b) Why Hamlet, the play, is so famous?*
- 6 **Tie in with films:** If you have access to video or DVD, watch the first three to five scenes of any of the *Hamlet* film versions with the sound off. Tell students to choose one of the scenes and imagine what the characters say. Play the film again and check whose guess was closest to the original.

## Act I

### While reading

- 7 **Group work:** Tell students to work in groups and fill out the following chart as they read pages 1–4: *Write down as much as you know about what each of the characters feels and thinks after the King's death.*

Hamlet	Polonius	Gertrude	Claudius

- 8 **Write:** Tell your students to read Scene 2, on page 4, and do the following activity: *Read Scene 2 in pairs. Imagine you are Ophelia after her conversation with her father. What do you write in your diary?*
- 9 **Read and discuss:** Ask students to do the following activity as they read pages 6–8: *Work in pairs. Read Scene 4 and then look at the picture on page 7. Who is there? What are they like? What are they thinking? Continue their conversation on page 6.*

### After reading

- 10 **Discuss:** Put students into groups to discuss these questions: *Now that you have finished Act I, discuss these questions: (a) How do these people feel about each other? Why? 1) Hamlet and Gertrude 2) Hamlet and Claudius 3) Polonius and Hamlet (b) What does the Ghost want Hamlet to do? Why?*

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- 11 Role play:** Put students into pairs. Ask them to act out this imaginary conversation after they finish reading the chapter: *Work in pairs and imagine the following conversation between Hamlet and Ophelia.*  
*Student A: You are Hamlet. Tell Ophelia about the Ghost and your plans for revenge.*  
*Student B: You are Ophelia. You don't think Hamlet should listen to the Ghost. Tell him why. Write down what they say and then act it out.*  
 Choose three pairs to role play their scene in front of the class.
- 12 Predict:** Ask students to work in groups. Tell them to predict what will happen in Act II: *In groups, discuss what you think will happen in Act II between Hamlet and Ophelia, between Hamlet and Polonius, and between Polonius and Ophelia with Hamlet and his plans for revenge.*

## Act II

### While reading

- 13 Check and discuss:** Ask students to work on the same groups as in activity 12 and to compare their predictions with what actually happens in the scene in Act II. They should fill out a chart that they will copy from the board: *Read Act II and compare your group answers after reading Act I to what actually happens in Act II. Fill out the chart and then find out how close you were!*

What we thought would happen in Act II	What really happens in Act II

- 14 Role play:** Tell your students to do the following activity in pairs after reading Hamlet's conversation with Guildenstern: *In pairs, read from page 12 up to the end of Act II. The talk there ends in 'the play is the key to the secrets of his heart' ... Continue the conversation and work on Hamlet's plan.*

### After reading

- 15 Discuss:** Put students into small groups to discuss these questions: *In groups, discuss (a) What secrets do these people want to know? How do they plan to find them? 1) Hamlet 2) Claudius 3) Polonius (b) Will their plans succeed? Why (not)?*
- 16 Write:** Tell students to work in pairs and to imagine they are Gertrude. Ask them to work on the following activity: *You are Gertrude at the end of Act II. Write down how you feel about your dead husband, your new husband, and the way your son is talking and behaving.*

## Act III

### While reading

- 17 Write:** Ask students to re-read pages 18 to the end of the scene and work on the following activity: *Re-read pages 18–23 and discuss what you think each of these characters 1) Gertrude, 2) Claudius, 3) Hamlet, 4) Polonius, is thinking as they watch the actors' play. Then write down a small paragraph on each one.*  
 Choose three groups to read their writings out loud.

### After reading

- 18 Group work:** Put students into small groups to discuss these questions: *In groups, discuss what Hamlet thinks about ... (a) life and death? (b) women? (c) Claudius when he is praying? (d) his mother's marriage? (e) Polonius's death? Do you agree with him? Why/Why not?*

## Act IV

### While reading

- 19 Pair work:** Tell students to work in pairs as they re-read Scenes 4 and 6 and do the following activity: *Re-read Scenes 4 and 6 and imagine you are Laertes. Write down all the reasons why you have to kill Hamlet.*

### After reading

- 20 Group work:** Put students into small groups to discuss these questions: *In groups, discuss: (a) What news do you think Hamlet has for Horatio? (b) What is Claudius's plan for Hamlet? Will it succeed? Why/Why not?*

## Act V

### While reading

- 21 Group work:** Tell students to work in groups and to change the first scene in Act V: *In groups, re-read Scene 1 and then get ready to role play it. But this time have each character (the workmen, Hamlet, Gertrude, Claudius) say out loud what they are really thinking.*
- 22 Discuss:** Tell students to work in pairs and to read Scene 2 in detail. They work on the following activity: *In pairs, read the final scene of the play and decide what went wrong. What did not happen as planned? Discuss why.*

### After reading

- 23 Role play:** Put students into groups of three. Ask them to act out this conversation: *In groups of three, act out the following talk:*  
*Student A: You think everything is Hamlet's fault. Say why.*  
*Student B: You think everything is Claudius's fault. Say why.*  
*Student C: You think everything is the Ghost's fault. Say why.*

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## Photocopiable

## 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  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

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**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? .....
  - d 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 (X)?**

- 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 .....

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

- a Gertrude .....
- .....
- b Claudius .....
- .....
- c Rosencrantz .....
- .....
- d Ophelia .....
- .....
- e Laertes .....
- .....

## Act V

**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 .....

## After reading

**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?  
.....



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## Photocopiable

## 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 (X)?

- 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 (X)?

- 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. ☐

# Hamlet

## Book key

- 1 Open answers
- 2 a people: lord / nephew / servant  
parts of a play: act / scene  
things that are found in the ground: grave / skull / worm  
things that can kill: poison / revenge / sword
- b Open answers
- 3 a Denmark  
b Claudius  
c perfect  
d simple  
e 1,700 years ago  
f 24  
g between 1598 and 1602
- 4 Open answers
- 5 a Claudius – Hamlet's uncle  
b Fortinbras – the King of Norway's nephew  
c Polonius – the King of Denmark's friend  
d Laertes – Polonius's son  
e Gertrude – Hamlet's mother  
f Horatio – Hamlet's friend  
g Ophelia – Laertes's sister
- 6 a lost land to Hamlet's father.  
b did not really love his father.  
c does not want his daughter to get into trouble.  
d punish the King.
- 7 a Open answers  
b Possible answer: weakness  
c Open answers  
d Possible answer: to watch him carefully
- 8 Open answers
- 9 a 4 b 5 c 1 d 3 e 2 f 6
- 10 a wrong – he is not really mad  
b wrong – Polonius does  
c right  
d wrong – she has *shown* them to her father, but has returned them to Hamlet  
e wrong – they are not sure  
f right  
g wrong – only Horatio, Marcellus and Barnardo know about the Ghost  
h wrong – he is not sure that the Ghost was honest  
i right

- 11 a Possible answers:  
Polonius thinks that Hamlet is mad with love for his daughter. He feels a bit sorry for him. Ophelia loves Hamlet, but she is afraid of his mad actions. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern seem to like Hamlet, but they are spying on him for the King. Gertrude is really worried about Hamlet and wants him to get better. Claudius is more afraid of Hamlet than worried about him.
- b Open answers
- 12 Open answers
- 13 a live  
b stupid  
c does not believe  
d afraid of  
e honest  
f are  
g does not feel  
h does not know  
i cannot  
j Claudius
- 14 Open answers
- 15 a when  
b if  
c but  
d because / when  
e during  
f so  
g after  
h while / because  
i before  
j until
- 16 a Claudius – Hamlet hates him and wants to kill him. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern – Hamlet does not like them because they are spies. Ophelia – Hamlet is probably afraid of her. He has acted badly with her, and has killed her father by mistake. Polonius – Hamlet thinks that he was a silly old man. But he is sorry that he is dead. Gertrude – He is less angry with her than before. He wants to forgive her.
- b Claudius is afraid of him. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern want to be friendly, but do not understand him. Ophelia probably hates him for killing her father.  
Polonius is dead. Gertrude pities him. She thinks that he is mad.
- c Open answers

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- 17 a** Hamlet will want to kill Claudius. Claudius will probably want to kill Hamlet.  
**b** Hamlet has killed Ophelia's father. Ophelia will hate Hamlet.  
**c** Laertes will be angry about his father's death. Perhaps he will think that Claudius is the murderer. Claudius will be afraid of Laertes. But perhaps he can make Laertes angry with Hamlet.  
**d** Hamlet will be worried because he has killed Laertes's father. Laertes will want revenge.

- 18 a** Hamlet / Polonius  
**b** Ophelia / Polonius  
**c** Claudius / Hamlet, Polonius's death, Ophelia's madness, Laertes's return  
**d** Laertes / Ophelia's madness  
**e** Hamlet / his journey to England  
**f** Claudius / Hamlet  
**g** Laertes / Hamlet  
**h** Gertrude / Ophelia

- 19 a** (worm) dog  
**b** (brother) father  
**c** (Hamlet) Laertes  
**d** (Claudius) No one  
**e** (money) help  
**f** (three) two  
**g** (sad) glad, happy, pleased, excited  
**h** (gun) sword  
**i** (food) drink  
**j** (jumped) fell

- 20 a** mad  
**b** kind  
**c** secret  
**d** stupid  
**e** fat / thin  
**f** safe  
**g** afraid  
**h** unbelievable  
**i** patient  
**j** thirsty

**21–22** Open answers

- 23 a** Hamlet **b** Yorick **c** Gertrude **d** Hamlet  
**e** Osric **f** Horatio **g** Claudius **h** Laertes  
**i** Horatio **j** Fortinbras

- 24 a** 1 Hamlet's father  
 2 Polonius  
 3 Ophelia  
 4 Rosencrantz and Guildenstern  
 5 Gertrude  
 6 Laertes  
 7 Claudius  
 8 Hamlet  
**b** Hamlet's father – in his garden. Polonius – behind a curtain in Gertrude's room. Ophelia – in an icy stream.  
 Rosencrantz and Guildenstern – in England.  
 Gertrude, Laertes, Claudius and Hamlet – the large room in the castle.  
**c–d** Hamlet's father – murdered by Claudius.  
 Polonius – killed accidentally by Hamlet. Ophelia – fell out of a tree into the water. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern – killed by the King of England because Hamlet had secretly changed the letter from Claudius. Gertrude – poisoned accidentally by Claudius. Laertes – killed by the poison on his own sword. Claudius – killed by Hamlet. Hamlet – killed by the poison on Laertes's sword.

**e** Open answers

**25–35** Open answers

## Discussion activities key

**1–6** Open answers

**7** Suggested answers:

Hamlet	Polonius	Gertrude	Claudius
is angry that his mother has married his uncle so soon. suspects his uncle. is terribly sad about his father's death.	thinks that Hamlet is acting strangely because he is sick with love. thinks the King's death is a terrible tragedy.	appears not to think about her dead husband as much as Hamlet would like her to. is very worried about her son.	does not feel guilty or worried. he is concerned about Hamlet's behaviour.



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## 8 Suggested answers:

I love Hamlet and he loves me. I can't believe why my father thinks he is crazy and out of love with me. I need to see him or I'll go crazy myself.

## 9 Open answers

## 10 Suggested answers:

Hamlet is unhappy because Gertrude married Claudius. Gertrude wants Hamlet to stop being unfriendly to Claudius. Hamlet hates Claudius because he murdered his father. Claudius is friendly to Hamlet.

Polonius does not want his daughter to see Hamlet.

We do not know how Hamlet feels about Polonius.

The Ghost wants Hamlet to punish Claudius for murdering him.

## 11–14 Open answers

## 15 Suggested answers:

Hamlet wants to know if Claudius really murdered his father. He wants Claudius to watch a play about a similar crime. Claudius wants to know why Hamlet is acting strangely. He asks Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to help him. Polonius wants to prove that Hamlet is mad because of love for his daughter. He plans to watch Hamlet and Ophelia in secret.

## 16–17 Open answers

- 18 a** Hamlet thinks that life is not as frightening as death.  
**b** He thinks that prettiness is a bad thing.  
**c** He does not want to kill Claudius while he is praying. He does not want Claudius to go to Heaven.  
**d** He thinks that his mother's marriage is wicked.  
**e** He thinks that Polonius was silly, but he is sorry that he is dead.

## 19–23 Open answers

## Activity worksheets key

- 1 a** a sword – pages 7, 25, 35, 45  
**b** a ghost – page 7  
**c** a curtain – pages 13, 35  
**d** a servant – page 45  
**e** a lord – page 45  
**f** poison – page 45  
**2 a** punish  
**b** revenge  
**c** 400  
**d** Kenneth Branagh  
**e** successful

- 3 a** 3 **b** 1 **c** 4 **d** 5 **e** 2

- 4 a** Claudius / too much sadness  
**b** Hamlet / the day of his father's death  
**c** Horatio / the Ghost or Hamlet's father  
**d** Polonius / Hamlet  
**e** Horatio / Hamlet  
**f** the Ghost / Claudius

## 5 Suggested answers:

- a** Because he wants Hamlet to find out that he was murdered.  
**b** Because he learns that his own uncle killed his father.  
**c** Because she cannot be alone.  
**d** Because he has to avenge the death of his father.

- 6 a** 1 **b** 2 **c** 1

- 7 a** 2 **b** 3 **c** 1

- 8** pleased – because there is going to be a play; rude – to Polonius; strange – he seems to be mad; unsure – he does not know if the Ghost is honest

- 9 a** 1 **b** 4 **c** 2 **d** 5 **e** 9 **f** 8 **g** 11 **h** 10  
**i** 7 **j** 6 **k** 3

- 10 a** 2 **b** 5 **c** 4 **d** 1 **e** 3 **f** 6

- 11 a** ✓ **b** ✗ **c** ✓ **d** ✓ **e** ✓ **f** ✗

- 12 a** Hamlet – Polonius is dead (feeding the worms).  
**b** Ophelia – There are no flowers on her father's grave.  
**c** Claudius – He receives a letter from Hamlet.  
**d** Laertes – He wants revenge on Hamlet for killing his father.  
**e** Claudius and Laertes – They plan to kill Hamlet in a swordfight.

- 13 a** No – She wants Hamlet to forgive her.  
**b** Yes – Hamlet has killed Polonius. Claudius thinks that he is dangerous.  
**c** Yes – Hamlet is rude to him.  
**d** No – She is mad.  
**e** Yes – His father and sister are dead because of Hamlet.

- 14 a** Hamlet  
**b** Laertes and Hamlet  
**c** Rosencrantz and Guildenstern  
**d** Hamlet and Laertes

## 15 Open answers

# Hamlet

## Progress test key

- 1 a Hamlet > Claudius  
 b year > month  
 c Polonius and Ophelia > Marcellus and Barnardo  
 d servant > soldier
- 2 a 1 b 1 c 2
- 3 a 1 b 4 c 6 d 5 e 3 f 2
- 4 a **X** b **✓** c **X**
- 5 a crazy words  
 b a dark secret in his heart  
 c watch his uncle  
 d two hours
- 6 a Claudius sends Hamlet to England because he actually wants *to have him killed*.  
 b Claudius says that Ophelia has gone mad because *her father was killed and Hamlet is missing*.  
 c Laertes enters the castle with a crowd of men because he wants *to avenge the death of his father and to become king himself*.  
 d In his letter to Horatio, Hamlet tells him that *he is a prisoner on a robbers' ship and that he must come to him*.
- 7 a murderer  
 b death, madness  
 c revenge  
 d poison, sword
- 8 a **✓** b **X** c **✓** d **✓** e **X**

ISBN	Reader Title	Author	Language	Word Count	Headwords	Pages	Blurbs
Pearson English Readers Level 3							
9781405881876	A History of Britain (Book)	Fiona Beddall	British English	8500	1,200	48	Britain is a small country, but it has a long history. Two thousand years ago, it was part of the Roman Empire. In the 1930's the British Empire was the biggest empire in world history. Read about the different countries of the United Kingdom - and the great men and women who have shaped the British nation.
9781447925552	A History of Britain (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Fiona Beddall	British English	8500	1,200	48	Britain is a small country, but it has a long history. Two thousand years ago, it was part of the Roman Empire. In the 1930's the British Empire was the biggest empire in world history. Read about the different countries of the United Kingdom - and the great men and women who have shaped the British nation.
9781405862387	A Midsummer Night's Dream (Book)	William Shakespeare	British English	12290	1200	64	This wonderful story of fairies, dreams and lovers is as popular today as it was in Shakespeare's time. In a wood outside Athens, four young people are following their dreams, while fairies play strange games with them. Their world seems unreal but is it really very different from our own?
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9781447925804	A Scandal in Bohemia (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	British English	20654	1,200	96	A Scandal in Bohemia is collection of six short stories featuring the great detective Sherlock Holmes and his friend Dr Watson. From shopkeepers to kings, everyone wants the help of Sherlock Holmes, but can he solve these mysteries?
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9781292099347	Braveheart (with MP3)	Randall Wallace	British English	7523	1,200	56	Braveheart is based on the true story William Wallace and his fight for Scotland's freedom from English rule. This epic story was made into an award-winning film in 1995 and starred Mel Gibson.
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9781447925521	Ghost in the Guitar (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Paul Shipton	British English	9935	1,200	48	Katy and her boyfriend Tom are happy in their band, Steel City. But then Tom gets a new guitar and the trouble begins. Suddenly he can play very well, but he seems to be a different person. Why is he always so angry? When Katy discovers the secret of the guitar she is very afraid. Can she save her boyfriend's life?
9781405881852	Grey Owl (Book)	Vicky Shipton	American English	6909	1,200	56	In the 1930s, Grey Owl was the most famous North American Indian in the world. He wanted to save his land, its forests and animals. He wanted to change the world. He also had a very strange secret. This book tells his true story.
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9781408261293	Noughts and Crosses (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Malorie Blackman	British English	14101	1,200	64	Sephy Hadley and Callun McGregor are two young people in love. But Sephy is a Cross, daughter of a government minister, and Callun is a nought. In their world, Crosses and noughts cannot be friends. Must they become enemies? Or is there hope for them - and for their unhappy country?
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9781447925798	Romeo and Juliet (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	William Shakespeare	British English	13684	1200	72	Romeo and Juliet is one of the most famous love stories in the world. But Shakespeare's beautiful tale is also about life and death; happiness and sadness; and two families.
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9781447925828	Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of Boscombe Pool (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	British English	8714	1200	56	Who killed Charles McCarthy at Boscombe Pool? And why? Detective Lestrade from Scotland Yard thinks it was McCarthy's son, James. Things do not look good for James. But the famous English detective, Sherlock Holmes, sees things differently. His friend, Dr Watson, joins him and tells the story.
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9781408232101	Stories of Survival (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Fiona Beddall	American English	9778	1,200	48	Some people choose adventure. Others suddenly find themselves in danger in their ordinary lives. This book tells the true stories of survivors. In the cold of Antarctica or the heat of the Sahara Desert, in the wide Atlantic Ocean or a small Rwandan bathroom, these people have known terrible suffering - but have lived.
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9781447925354	The Beatles (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Paul Shipton	British English	8721	1,200	56	This book tells the story of the greatest band in the world from the early days in Liverpool to the Beatles' music in the world today.
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9781447925385	The Black Cat and Other Stories (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Edgar Allan Poe	British English	7423	1200	56	Are you brave enough to read four of Poe's famous horror stories? Edgar Allan Poe wrote strange stories about terrible people and evil crimes. Don't read this book late at night!
9781405862325	The Canterbury Tales (Book)	Geoffrey Chaucer	British English	15973	1,200	72	The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer is considered one of the greatest works in English literature. The tales are told by a group of pilgrims going to Canterbury who meet at an inn in London and decide to take part in a game. The one who tells the best story will be given a free meal at the inn.
9781447925408	The Canterbury Tales (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Geoffrey Chaucer	British English	15973	1,200	72	The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer is considered one of the greatest works in English literature. The tales are told by a group of pilgrims going to Canterbury who meet at an inn in London and decide to take part in a game. The one who tells the best story will be given a free meal at the inn.
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9781447938071	The Cellist of Sarajevo (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Steven Galloway	British English	14017	1,200	64	Sarajevo is under siege. There is little food or water and the city is attacked, every day, from the hills. Ordinary people try to live their lives, but they are losing hope for the future. Then, one day, some decide to wait in a line for bread...
9781405881791	The Climb (Book)	John Escott	British English	8624	1200	48	A mysterious stranger has come to the island where Costas lives. Why is the man there, and why is he looking at Eagle's Rock? Costas wants to be the first person to climb the dangerous rock. But will the stranger climb it first?
9781447925415	The Climb (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	John Escott	British English	8624	1200	48	A mysterious stranger has come to the island where Costas lives. Why is the man there, and why is he looking at Eagle's Rock? Costas wants to be the first person to climb the dangerous rock. But will the stranger climb it first?
9781405881807	The Count of Monte Cristo (Book)	Alexandre Dumas	British English	12014	1,200	64	Edmond Dantes is a sailor and has a beautiful fiancée, Mercedes. But Edmond's enemies are jealous of his success and devise a plan to have him sent to prison. There he learns of the treasure on the island of Monte Cristo.
9781447925422	The Count of Monte Cristo (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Alexandre Dumas	British English	12014	1,200	64	Edmond Dantes is a sailor and has a beautiful fiancée, Mercedes. But Edmond's enemies are jealous of his success and devise a plan to have him sent to prison. There he learns of the treasure on the island of Monte Cristo.
9781405862356	The Fall of the House of Usher and Other Stories (Book)	Edgar Allan Poe	American English	11432	1,200	72	There are five stories in this book. 'The Fall of the House of Usher' and 'The Barrel of Amontillado' are stories of madness; 'The Maelstrom' describes fear of death during a storm on the ocean; and in 'The Murders of the Rue Morgue' and 'The Stolen Letter' meet C. Auguste Dupin, Poe's famous Parisian detective.
9781447925491	The Fall of the House of Usher and Other Stories (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Edgar Allan Poe	American English	11432	1,200	72	There are five stories in this book. 'The Fall of the House of Usher' and 'The Barrel of Amontillado' are stories of madness; 'The Maelstrom' describes fear of death during a storm on the ocean; and in 'The Murders of the Rue Morgue' and 'The Stolen Letter' meet C. Auguste Dupin, Poe's famous Parisian detective.
9781405876919	The Fugitive (Book)	J. M. Dillard	British English	7212	1,200	56	The police think Dr. Richard Kimble killed his wife. Kimble knows another man did it - a man with one arm. Will the police find Kimble before he can find the man with one arm?
9781405855501	The Hunchback of Notre-Dame (Book)	Victor Hugo (retold by Nicola)	American English	13,710	1,200	72	Ugly and unwanted by the outside world, Quasimodo the hunchback lives under the protection of the priest in the Cathedral of Notre-Dame. Then his quiet life is destroyed by the priest's evil plans for a beautiful gypsy girl. The priest needs Quasimodo's help. But the hunchback has other ideas.
9781447925576	The Hunchback of Notre-Dame (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Victor Hugo (retold by Nicola)	American English	13,710	1,200	72	Ugly and unwanted by the outside world, Quasimodo the hunchback lives under the protection of the priest in the Cathedral of Notre-Dame. Then his quiet life is destroyed by the priest's evil plans for a beautiful gypsy girl. The priest needs Quasimodo's help. But the hunchback has other ideas.
9781405881906	The Island of Dr. Moreau (Book)	H.G. Wells	British English	13226	1,200	64	Edward Prendick is saved at sea by a ship and a passenger, Montgomery, brings him back to health. Prendick becomes interested in the mysterious Montgomery and the even more mysterious Doctor Moreau.



9781447925590	The Island of Dr. Moreau (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	H. G. Wells (retold by Fio	British English	13,226	1,200	64	Edward Prendick is saved at sea by a ship and a passenger, Montgomery, brings him back to health. Prendick becomes interested in the mysterious Montgomery and the even more mysterious Doctor Moreau.
9781405855471	The Return of Sherlock Holmes (Book)	Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	British English	12921	1200	72	Sherlock Holmes disappeared in Switzerland in 1891 while working on a dangerous case. Everyone thought he was dead, but he's back with his friend, Dr. Watson, to solve three of his most interesting cases.
9781447925774	The Return of Sherlock Holmes (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	British English	12921	1200	72	Sherlock Holmes disappeared in Switzerland in 1891 while working on a dangerous case. Everyone thought he was dead, but he's back with his friend, Dr. Watson, to solve three of his most interesting cases.
9781405882026	The Ring (Book)	Bernard Smith	British English	14754	1200	64	Rafael and his gold ring is a strange story of murder, mystery and love. Rafael is a poor fisherman, who has gone mad. Did he go mad for love of a girl, or because he saw or committed some terrible deed?
9781447925781	The Ring (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Bernard Smith	British English	14754	1,200	64	Rafael and his gold ring is a strange story of murder, mystery and love. Rafael is a poor fisherman, who has gone mad. Did he go mad for love of a girl, or because he saw or committed some terrible deed?
9781405855488	The Swiss Family Robinson	Johann Wyss	British English	13480	1200	72	The Robinson family is shipwrecked on an uninhabited desert island. How long will they be there, and how will they survive? A classic story of adventure, family and an uncertain future.
9781447925842	The Swiss Family Robinson (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Johann Wyss	British English	13480	1200	72	The Robinson family is shipwrecked on an uninhabited desert island. How long will they be there, and how will they survive? A classic story of adventure, family and an uncertain future.
9781405862349	The Thirty-nine Steps (Book)	John Buchan	British English	20752	1,200	94	A man is killed in Richard Hannay's home. Before his death he tells Hannay a dangerous secret. Now Hannay's life is in danger. Who are his enemies and what are they trying to do? And how will he solve the mystery of 'the thirty-nine steps'?
9781405882057	The Turn of the Screw (Book)	Henry James	British English	6851	1200	56	A young woman comes to a big house to teach two young children. It's her first job and she wants to do it well. But she begins to see strange things - the ghosts of dead people. Do the ghosts want the children?
9781447925866	The Turn of the Screw (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	Henry James	British English	6851	1200	56	A young woman comes to a big house to teach two young children. It's her first job and she wants to do it well. But she begins to see strange things - the ghosts of dead people. Do the ghosts want the children?
9781447925729	Othello (MP3 Audio CD Pack)	William Shakespeare	British English	11,678	1,200	64	Othello is a popular soldier who is in love with his beautiful new wife. His trusted friend, Iago, tells him terrible stories about his wife, Desdemona. Who should he believe?
9781292205915	Marvel's Captain America: Civil War		American English	12,047	1200	64	The Avengers are super heroes with very special powers who defend the world against its enemies. Recently, though, they have made mistakes. Governments decide that the team will need permission for future fights. Some Avengers are happy to sign an agreement. Others angrily refuse. Suddenly Avengers are fighting Avengers. Will the super heroes realize in time who their real enemy is?
9781292208190	Marvel's Captain America: Civil War with MP3		American English	12,047	1200	64	The Avengers are super heroes with very special powers who defend the world against its enemies. Recently, though, they have made mistakes. Governments decide that the team will need permission for future fights. Some Avengers are happy to sign an agreement. Others angrily refuse. Suddenly Avengers are fighting Avengers. Will the super heroes realize in time who their real enemy is?
9781292205991	Marvel's Thor		American English	11,800	1200	64	The older son of Odin, King of Asgard, is strong and brave—but also proud and thoughtless. When Thor's actions put Asgard in great danger from its enemies, Odin sends him away, without his powers, to Earth. Can Thor become wiser, far from home? Will he ever be able to return to Asgard? And what will he find if he does?
9781292208206	Marvel's Thor with MP3		American English	11,800	1200	64	The older son of Odin, King of Asgard, is strong and brave—but also proud and thoughtless. When Thor's actions put Asgard in great danger from its enemies, Odin sends him away, without his powers, to Earth. Can Thor become wiser, far from home? Will he ever be able to return to Asgard? And what will he find if he does?
9781292205694	Marvel's The Avengers: Age of Ultron		American English	13,006	1,200	64	When Tony Stark makes a mistake, a destructive intelligence is created. Ultron has terrible plans for people on Earth. Iron Man, Captain America, Black Widow, Hulk, and the rest of the Avengers team must come together again. They must fight Ultron—and other new enemies—to save the world.
9781292239521	Marvel's The Avengers: Age of Ultron with MP3		American English	13,006	1,200	64	When Tony Stark makes a mistake, a destructive intelligence is created. Ultron has terrible plans for people on Earth. Iron Man, Captain America, Black Widow, Hulk, and the rest of the Avengers team must come together again. They must fight Ultron—and other new enemies—to save the world.
9781292205830	Doctor Who: Mummy on the Orient Express		British English	11,413	1200	64	The Doctor and his companion, Clara, are on the most beautiful train in history, speeding past the stars of the future. But something terrible is killing the passengers. After you see the mummy, you only have 66 seconds. Then you die. There is no escape. As the Doctor races against the clock, he seems to Clara more unfeeling than ever before. Will he learn how to stop the mummy? Start the clock!
9781292208183	Doctor Who: Mummy on the Orient Express (with MP3)		British English	11,413	1200	64	The Doctor and his companion, Clara, are on the most beautiful train in history, speeding past the stars of the future. But something terrible is killing the passengers. After you see the mummy, you only have 66 seconds. Then you die. There is no escape. As the Doctor races against the clock, he seems to Clara more unfeeling than ever before. Will he learn how to stop the mummy? Start the clock!

9781292206158	Doctor Who: Flatline		British English	12,212	1200	64	Alone, without the Doctor, Clara discovers a new danger from another dimension. But how do you hide when even the walls give no protection? People need help and the Doctor can't leave the TARDIS. And Clara has to fight an enemy that can't be seen.
9781292208176	Doctor Who: Flatline (with MP3)		British English	12,212	1200	64	Alone, without the Doctor, Clara discovers a new danger from another dimension. But how do you hide when even the walls give no protection? People need help and the Doctor can't leave the TARDIS. And Clara has to fight an enemy that can't be seen.
9781292205892	Doctor Who: The Woman Who Lived		British English	12,663	1200	64	England, 1651. The Knightmare is a highwayman who is feared in the dark streets of London. With the help of a mysterious assistant, the Knightmare is searching for jewellery from another world -- and comes face to face with the Doctor. Who is the highwayman's companion? Will the Doctor be able to stay away from the gallows and protect the Earth from a terrible enemy?
9781292205892	Doctor Who: The Woman Who Lived (with MP3)		British English	12,663	1200	64	England, 1651. The Knightmare is a highwayman who is feared in the dark streets of London. With the help of a mysterious assistant, the Knightmare is searching for jewellery from another world -- and comes face to face with the Doctor. Who is the highwayman's companion? Will the Doctor be able to stay away from the gallows and protect the Earth from a terrible enemy?
9781292206196	Doctor Who: Face the Raven		British English	13,793	1200	64	The Doctor and Clara, with their friend Riggs, find themselves in an alien world, on a street hidden in the heart of London. Inside there are some of the most frightening beings imaginable, and Ashildr! The visitors are faced with a death sentence. They won't all get out alive.
9781292206196	Doctor Who: Face the Raven (with MP3)		British English	13,793	1200	64	The Doctor and Clara, with their friend Riggs, find themselves in an alien world, on a street hidden in the heart of London. Inside there are some of the most frightening beings imaginable, and Ashildr! The visitors are faced with a death sentence. They won't all get out alive.
9781447925675	A Midsummer Night's Dream (with MP3)	William Shakespeare	British English	12290	1200	64	This wonderful story of fairies, dreams and lovers is as popular today as it was in Shakespeare's time. In a wood outside Athens, four young people are following their dreams, while fairies play strange games with them. Their world seems unreal but is it really very different from our own?
9781447925637	K's First Case (with MP3)	L.G. Alexander	British English	7824	1,200	72	Katrina Kirby is a detective, but people call her 'K'. There has been a murder, and there are five suspects who were in the house at the time of the murder. This is her first case, so she needs your help to solve the crime.
9781447958369	Amistad (with MP3)	Joyce Barnes	British English	7995	1,200	56	There is a bloody fight on the slave ship Amistad. The African slaves face prison and the US law. Now, the courts must decide if they are murderers or men fighting for freedom.
9781292230641	Doctor Who: Face the Raven (with MP3)		British English	13,793	1,200	64	The Doctor and Clara, with their friend Riggs, find themselves in an alien world, on a street hidden in the heart of London. Inside there are some of the most frightening beings imaginable, and Ashildr! The visitors are faced with a death sentence. They won't all get out alive.
9781292230665	Doctor Who: The Woman Who Lived (with MP3)		British English	12,663	1,200	64	England, 1651. The Knightmare is a highwayman who is feared in the dark streets of London. With the help of a mysterious assistant, the Knightmare is searching for jewellery from another world -- and comes face to face with the Doctor. Who is the highwayman's companion? Will the Doctor be able to stay away from the gallows and protect the Earth from a terrible enemy?
9781447925538	Grey Owl (with MP3)	Vicky Shipton	American English	6909	1,200	56	In the 1930s, Grey Owl was the most famous North American Indian in the world. He wanted to save his land, its forests and animals. He wanted to change the world. He also had a very strange secret. This book tells his true story.
9781447925545	Hamlet (with MP3)	William Shakespeare	British English	11552	1,200	64	Hamlet is the Prince of Denmark. His heart is filled with sadness and pain. Why? Only his two best friends, Horatio and Marcellus, know the true reason. The new king, Claudius, murdered Hamlet's father and married the young prince's mother. Will Hamlet be strong and brave enough to take revenge? Is he mad? Or does he have a secret plan?
9781447925767	Psycho (with MP3)	Robert Bloch	American English	9718	1,200	56	Marion's dream is coming true. She only needs a room for one more night before she can marry Sam. Driving through the night, she's lost and tired. Then she sees the Bates Motel. She thinks she is lucky. But there, something terrible is waiting for her.
9781447925859	The Thirty-nine Steps (with MP3)	John Buchan	British English	20752	1,200	94	A man is killed in Richard Hannay's home. Before his death he tells Hannay a dangerous secret. Now Hannay's life is in danger. Who are his enemies and what are they trying to do? And how will he solve the mystery of 'the thirty-nine steps'?