

4th grade STA Reading: April 20-24, 2020

The play “Hamlet” (formally known as “The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark”) was written by William Shakespeare around 1600. It is a tragedy because most everyone dies in the play. Here is a summary:

Prince Hamlet’s father died, so Hamlet’s uncle, Claudius, became King. Hamlet dreamed that his father was murdered by Claudius, so Hamlet wanted to kill Claudius. Thinking that Claudius was hiding behind a curtain, Hamlet thrust his sword, but killed Polonius, the King’s advisor, instead. Polonius’ daughter, Ophelia, went mad upon hearing of her father’s death, and she drowned herself. Ophelia’s brother, Laertes, vowed to get revenge, so he challenged Hamlet to a sword fight. Laertes put poison on the tip of his sword and King Claudius added poison to a cup of wine, in case the poisoned sword didn’t work. Laertes stabbed Hamlet with the poisoned sword, but Hamlet turned around and used the same poisoned sword to kill Laertes and King Claudius. Then Hamlet’s mother accidentally drank the poisoned wine. Hamlet died from the poison on the sword.

Watch the youtube clip summarizing the play “Hamlet”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d2iE5lllFXU>

<u>Old English translation guide</u>		
Meself = myself	Wis = think	wi’ = with
Nay = no	Aye = yes	a’ = he
Ken = know	An = if	Wight = boy

We already know that Widge is quite ready and willing to lie in order to gain for himself, and his idea of doing right is what benefits him. Let’s pay attention to Widge’s idea of **family** and **friendship**.

Widge often refers to the time of day in terms of the canonical hours. The canonical hours are official Catholic prayers said at specific times of the day.

Canonical hour	Time of day
Matins	dawn
Prime	7am
Terce	9am
Sext	noon
Nones	3pm
Vespers	sunset
Compline	bedtime
Midnight office	midnight

Homework:

- Read chapters 11-15 of *The Shakespeare Stealer*
<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZDEwMy5vcmd8cm5lbHNvbXxneDoxZTEzM2VjNzExYmNlMjkz> Pay attention to Widge's understanding of family and friendship.
- Answer the following questions (on the worksheet or on lined paper) and send your completed work to me at mmyler@gtacs.org on or before Friday, April 24. Thank you!!

The Shakespeare Stealer: chapters 11-15

1. Give evidence of Widge's concept of family. From his own experiences, what does he think is a family?

2. What does Widge think of friendship?

3. Is Widge a trusting person? Give an example that proves your opinion.
