

Hamlet

William Shakespeare

How does Hamlet's language move from sadness about his father to judgment of the world around him?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Hamlet's first private speech
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Act I, Scene II
START	O that this too too solid flesh would melt
END	But break, my heart, for I must hold my tongue.
PASSAGE ID	sec-ham-01

THE MOVE

Track how imagery turns grief into judgment

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Hamlet's grief begins with his father and mother, but his imagery quickly expands until the whole world feels stale, overgrown, and corrupted. The speech shows private sorrow becoming a judgment about reality itself.

MARK

Underline the words tied directly to Hamlet's father and mother. Circle the images of decay, weeds, rot, or exhaustion. Draw an arrow to the point where the speech stops describing family grief and starts condemning the world.

NOTICE

- What event begins Hamlet's sorrow?
- Which images make his grief feel larger than one family loss?
- At what point does Hamlet's emotional state become a theory about what the world is like?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does Hamlet's language move from sadness about his father to judgment of the world around him? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: How does Hamlet's language move from sadness about his father to judgment of the world around him? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	Hamlet begins with grief tied to his father's death and his mother's remarriage, then expands that private pain into images of decay, weeds, and a corrupted world. His emotional state becomes a judgment about reality itself.
EVIDENCE	Use one family-specific reference and one image that generalizes the feeling beyond the family. Strong answers identify the linguistic turn where personal grief becomes a worldview.
WATCH FOR	Do not list sad imagery. Explain the change in scale from 'my loss' to 'the world is rotten.'
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

Hamlet

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How does Hamlet's language move from sadness about his father to judgment of the world around him?

START ANCHOR	O that this too too solid flesh would melt
END ANCHOR	But break, my heart, for I must hold my tongue.

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

- 1. MARK - Underline the words tied directly to Hamlet's father and mother. Circle the images of decay, weeds, rot, or exhaustion.

Draw an arrow to the point where the speech stops describing family grief and starts condemning the world.

- 2. NOTICE - What event begins Hamlet's sorrow? Which images make his grief feel larger than one family loss? At what point does Hamlet's emotional state become a theory about what the world is like?
- 3. THINK - Answer provisionally: How does Hamlet's language move from sadness about his father to judgment of the world around him?
- 4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.