

Hamlet

William Shakespeare

What does Hamlet do when he realizes that suspicion is not the same thing as proof?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Hamlet designs a test for Claudius
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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 II, Scene II
START	Now I am alone.
END	The play's the thing wherein I'll catch the conscience of the King.
PASSAGE ID	sec-ham-02

THE MOVE

Turn uncertainty into a testable plan

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Hamlet distrusts both Claudius and his own interpretation of the Ghost. Instead of treating suspicion as proof, he designs the play to produce observable behavior he can examine. The passage turns uncertainty into an investigative method.

MARK

Box Hamlet's reasons for doubting the Ghost or doubting himself. Underline the part of the plan that will create evidence. Star the line that shows what reaction from Claudius Hamlet intends to watch.

NOTICE

- What possibilities make Hamlet uncertain even after hearing the Ghost?

- What exactly will the play allow Hamlet to observe that he cannot know from suspicion alone?
- Does Hamlet's plan eliminate uncertainty, or does it simply produce better evidence?

THINK

Answer provisionally: What does Hamlet do when he realizes that suspicion is not the same thing as proof? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: What does Hamlet do when he realizes that suspicion is not the same thing as proof? 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 responds to uncertainty by designing the play as a test. He does not treat the Ghost's accusation as proof; he plans to create a situation in which Claudius's observable reaction can supply better evidence.
EVIDENCE	Use Hamlet's reasons for distrusting either the Ghost or his own judgment, then the specific behavior he intends to watch during the performance.
WATCH FOR	Do not say Hamlet finally becomes certain before the play. The important move is converting suspicion into a testable plan.
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

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What does Hamlet do when he realizes that suspicion is not the same thing as proof?

START ANCHOR

Now I am alone.

END ANCHOR

The play's the thing wherein I'll catch the conscience of the King.

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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 - Box Hamlet's reasons for doubting the Ghost or doubting himself. Underline the part of the plan that will create evidence.

Star the line that shows what reaction from Claudius Hamlet intends to watch.

2. NOTICE - What possibilities make Hamlet uncertain even after hearing the Ghost? What exactly will the play allow Hamlet to observe that he cannot know from suspicion alone? Does Hamlet's plan eliminate uncertainty, or does it simply produce better evidence?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: What does Hamlet do when he realizes that suspicion is not the same thing as proof?
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.