

Hamlet

William Shakespeare

Which step in Hamlet's reasoning turns the possibility of death from a solution into a problem?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	To be or not to be
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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 III, Scene I
START	To be, or not to be, that is the question:
END	And lose the name of action. Soft you now,
PASSAGE ID	sec-ham-03

THE MOVE

Map an argument that defeats its own conclusion

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The soliloquy begins by treating death as an escape from suffering, then changes when Hamlet imagines what may come after death. One unknown consequence reverses the direction of the argument and turns a solution into a new source of fear.

MARK

Number the steps of Hamlet's reasoning from suffering to death to sleep to dreams. Put a box around the step where the logic turns. Write WHY STOP? beside the uncertainty that prevents the original conclusion.

NOTICE

- Why does death initially seem like a rational solution in Hamlet's argument?
- Which new possibility makes that solution dangerous?
- How does uncertainty about the afterlife defeat a conclusion that seemed logical a few lines earlier?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Which step in Hamlet's reasoning turns the possibility of death from a solution into a problem? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Which step in Hamlet's reasoning turns the possibility of death from a solution into a problem? 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	Death first appears to solve suffering by ending pain, but the possibility of unknown dreams after death changes the calculation. The argument defeats itself at the point where sleep is no longer guaranteed to be peaceful.
EVIDENCE	Trace the reasoning from suffering -> death -> sleep, then identify the 'dreams' or afterlife uncertainty that reverses the conclusion.
WATCH FOR	Do not answer generally that Hamlet is afraid of death. Name the exact logical step that turns death from solution into problem.
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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Which step in Hamlet's reasoning turns the possibility of death from a solution into a problem?

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END ANCHOR	And lose the name of action. Soft you now,

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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 - Number the steps of Hamlet's reasoning from suffering to death to sleep to dreams. Put a box around the step where the logic turns. Write WHY STOP? beside the uncertainty that prevents the original conclusion.
2. NOTICE - Why does death initially seem like a rational solution in Hamlet's argument? Which new possibility makes that solution dangerous? How does uncertainty about the afterlife defeat a conclusion that seemed logical a few lines earlier?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: Which step in Hamlet's reasoning turns the possibility of death from a solution into a problem?
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.