

You are a father named **Polonius** talking to your son Laertes who is departing for college:

"This above all: to thine own self be true,  
And it must follow, as the night the day,  
Thou canst not then be false to any man."

Character	What do you learn from this character's lines? What can you infer about their character?
Polonius	
Ophelia	
Dead Spirit	
Hamlet	
Marcellus	
Claudius	
Gertrude	

Your character: You are a young woman named **Ophelia** talking to your brother Laertes who has been giving you advice about your relationship with your boyfriend:

"But, good my brother,  
Do not, as some ungracious pastors do,  
Show me the steep and thorny way to heaven,  
Whiles, like a puffed and reckless libertine,  
Himself the primrose path of dalliance treads  
And recks not his own rede<sup>1</sup>."

Character	What do you learn from this character's lines? What can you infer about their character?
Polonius	
Ophelia	
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Hamlet	
Marcellus	
Claudius	
Gertrude	

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<sup>1</sup> Rede: advice or counsel given by one person to another.

You are a **dead spirit** describing the true cause of your death:

"Murder most foul, as in the best it is,

But this most foul, strange, and unnatural."

Character	What do you learn from this character's lines? What can you infer about their character?
Polonius	
Ophelia	
Dead Spirit	
Hamlet	
Marcellus	
Claudius	
Gertrude	

You are a young man named **Hamlet** in a difficult situation talking to yourself:

"To be or not to be-that is the question:

Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer

The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,

Or to take arms against a sea of troubles

And, by opposing, end them."

Character	What do you learn from this character's lines? What can you infer about their character?
Polonius	
Ophelia	
Dead Spirit	
Hamlet	
Marcellus	
Claudius	
Gertrude	

You are a man named **Marcellus** talking to a co-worker named Horatio:  
"Something is rotten in the state of Denmark."

Character	What do you learn from this character's lines? What can you infer about their character?
Polonius	
Ophelia	
Dead Spirit	
Hamlet	
Marcellus	
Claudius	
Gertrude	

You are a new step-father named **Claudius** talking to your step-son:  
"Are you like the painting of a sorrow,  
a face without a heart?"

Character	What do you learn from this character's lines? What can you infer about their character?
Polonius	
Ophelia	
Dead Spirit	
Hamlet	
Marcellus	
Claudius	
Gertrude	

You are a mother named **Gertrude** talking to your son:

“Hamlet, thou hast thy father much offended.”

To which your son, **Hamlet**, responds:

“Mother, you have my father much offended.”

Character	What do you learn from this character's lines? What can you infer about their character?
Polonius	
Ophelia	
Dead Spirit	
Hamlet	
Marcellus	
Claudius	
Gertrude	

You are a Prince of Denmark named **Hamlet**:  
“O villain, villain, smiling, damned villain!  
My tables,—meet it is I set it down,  
That one may smile, and smile, and be a villain:  
At least I ’m sure it may be so in Denmark.”

Character	What do you learn from this character’s lines? What can you infer about their character?
Polonius	
Ophelia	
Dead Spirit	
Hamlet	
Marcellus	
Claudius	
Gertrude	