

## **HAMLET STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS**

- What is Queen Gertrude's level of knowledge about the murder of King Hamlet?
- Did Gertrude and Claudius have an affair before King Hamlet's murder? Do they love each other or are they just using one another for their personal gain?
- Is Claudius an evil person? If so, why does Gertrude love him?
- What is so terrifying about the ghost?
- How intimate has Hamlet and Ophelia's relationship become before King Hamlet died?
- Why does Hamlet visit Ophelia after he sees the ghost?
- Why does Hamlet decide to put an "antic disposition" on?
- How does Gertrude feel about Polonius?
- What is the time span of the play? The play seems to suggest two months.
- Does Hamlet know that Claudius is eavesdropping on him and Ophelia?
- How does Hamlet figure out that Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are spying on him?
- Does Ophelia commit suicide, or was her death truly an accident?
- How is it that Gertrude has so many details about Ophelia's death?

## **PRODUCTION QUESTIONS**

- How can we portray the ghost on stage effectively?
- What characters can be safely eliminated?
- How does Paul get off stage after he is murdered as Claudius so he can become the ghost?
- How do we "bury" Ophelia?
- What is the difference between Rosencrantz and Guildenstern?
- How violent should the nunnery scene become?
- Does the ghost see Gertrude in the closet scene?
- How can each character be distinguished for actors playing more than one role?
- To what extent should we use audience participation?
- What should be the role of live music in the production?