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| **TASK TWO:** Writing task, to hand in to your teacher in the first lesson.  In this extract from Act 1 Scene 1 of *Hamlet*, the soldiers on watch are changing guard ready for the next shift, and discuss a ghostly vision that they have seen. The old king, Old Hamlet, has recently died, and the country is just getting used to the rule of the new king, Claudius.  Write a short analytical piece (max 1000 words) in response to this question:  *How does Shakespeare use this scene to introduce an atmosphere of suspicion and paranoia in ‘Hamlet’?*  You might like to think about:   * The way the soldiers introduce themselves to each other and declare their loyalties * The different attitudes towards the ghost – scepticism versus superstition * The language, form and structure e.g. dialogue, proxemics, potential staging * Other parts of the play that you can make connections with |

**Summer Preparation 2: Hamlet**



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| **TASK ONE:** Read and watch *Hamlet* in full. We recommend the RSC adaptation starring David Tennant from 2009, which is available on [Planet Estream](https://video.gdst.net/View.aspx?id=29536~5m~eZACXfcrPh) or in the Library on DVD. **Read actively**, finding key quotations as you read and making notes about the director’s choices as you watch the film. If you would like support getting to grips with the play’s themes, we recommend [Connell Guides](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Shakespeares-Hamlet-Connell-Graham-Bradshaw/dp/1907776605/ref=asc_df_1907776605/?tag=googshopuk-21&linkCode=df0&hvadid=310903220820&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=8058574102901369893&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9045875&hvtargid=pla-563284112046&psc=1&th=1&psc=1). |

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| **ACT I SCENE I** | *Elsinore. A platform before the castle.* |  |
| *[FRANCISCO at his post. Enter to him BERNARDO]* | | |
| BERNARDO | Who's there? |  |
| FRANCISCO | Nay, answer me: stand, and unfold yourself. |  |
| BERNARDO | Long live the king! |  |
| FRANCISCO | Bernardo? |  |
| BERNARDO | He. |  |
| FRANCISCO | You come most carefully upon your hour. |  |
| BERNARDO | 'Tis now struck twelve; get thee to bed, Francisco. |  |
| FRANCISCO | For this relief much thanks: 'tis bitter cold, |  |
|  | And I am sick at heart. |  |
| BERNARDO | Have you had quiet guard? |  |
| FRANCISCO | Not a mouse stirring. | 10 |
| BERNARDO | Well, good night. |  |
|  | If you do meet Horatio and Marcellus, |  |
|  | The rivals of my watch, bid them make haste. |  |
| FRANCISCO | I think I hear them. Stand, ho! Who's there? |  |
| *[Enter HORATIO and MARCELLUS]* | | |
| HORATIO | Friends to this ground. |  |
| MARCELLUS | And liegemen to the Dane. |  |
| FRANCISCO | Give you good night. |  |
| MARCELLUS | O, farewell, honest soldier: |  |
|  | Who hath relieved you? |  |
| FRANCISCO | Bernardo has my place. |  |
|  | Give you good night. |  |
| *[Exit]* | | |
| MARCELLUS | Holla! Bernardo! |  |
| BERNARDO | Say, |  |
|  | What, is Horatio there? |  |
| HORATIO | A piece of him. |  |
| BERNARDO | Welcome, Horatio: welcome, good Marcellus. | 20 |
| MARCELLUS | What, has this thing appear'd again to-night? |  |
| BERNARDO | I have seen nothing. |  |
| MARCELLUS | Horatio says 'tis but our fantasy, |  |
|  | And will not let belief take hold of him |  |
|  | Touching this dreaded sight, twice seen of us: |  |
|  | Therefore I have entreated him along |  |
|  | With us to watch the minutes of this night; |  |
|  | That if again this apparition come, |  |
|  | He may approve our eyes and speak to it. |  |
| HORATIO | Tush, tush, 'twill not appear. |  |
| BERNARDO | Sit down awhile; | 30 |
|  | And let us once again assail your ears, |  |
|  | That are so fortified against our story |  |
|  | What we have two nights seen. |  |
| HORATIO | Well, sit we down, |  |
|  | And let us hear Bernardo speak of this. |  |
| BERNARDO | Last night of all, |  |
|  | When yond same star that's westward from the pole |  |
|  | Had made his course to illume that part of heaven |  |
|  | Where now it burns, Marcellus and myself, |  |
|  | The bell then beating one,-- *[Enter Ghost]* |  |
| MARCELLUS | Peace, break thee off; look, where it comes again! | 40 |
| BERNARDO | In the same figure, like the king that's dead. |  |
| MARCELLUS | Thou art a scholar; speak to it, Horatio. |  |
| BERNARDO | Looks it not like the king? mark it, Horatio. |  |
| HORATIO | Most like: it harrows me with fear and wonder. |  |
| BERNARDO | It would be spoke to. |  |
| MARCELLUS | Question it, Horatio. |  |
| HORATIO | What art thou that usurp'st this time of night, |  |
|  | Together with that fair and warlike form |  |
|  | In which the majesty of buried Denmark |  |
|  | Did sometimes march? by heaven I charge thee, speak! |  |
| MARCELLUS | It is offended. |  |
| BERNARDO | See, it stalks away! | 50 |
| HORATIO | Stay! speak, speak! I charge thee, speak! |  |
| *[Exit Ghost]* | | |