***Hamlet* Guide Questions**

**Act I**

1. Why did the ghost of King Hamlet flee when the “cock crew”?
2. What does Hamlet mean when he says, “A little more than kin and less than kind”?
3. Describe Hamlet’s state of mind.
4. Why does Polonius forbid Ophelia from seeing Hamlet? What is her response?
5. To whom does the ghost eventually speak? What does the ghost reveal?

**Act II**

1. What task does Polonius give Reynaldo? Why?
2. What does Polonius decide is the reason Hamlet has gone mad? What is Polonius’ trap to find out what is going on with Hamlet?
3. According to Gertrude, what is the source of Hamlet’s madness?
4. Explain how Hamlet plans to “catch the conscience” of the king?

**Act III**

1. What contradicting statements about death does Hamlet give in his “To be or not to be” speech?
2. Explain how Hamlet proposes to test Claudius’ guilt.
3. Explain why Hamlet does not take revenge upon Claudius while he is praying.
4. Why do you think the ghost appears when Gertrude and Hamlet are alone? Why do you think Gertrude is not able to see the ghost?
5. What does Hamlet tell Gertrude to do at the end of this act?

**Act IV**

1. Who does Claudius send to get Hamlet? Why?
2. What does Hamlet decide after he meets a captain in Fortinbras’ army? Why?
3. Describe Ophelia’s state of mind. What contributes to her mental state? Why is she singing?
4. Why does Laertes return from France?

**Act V**

1. How does Hamlet turn the tables on Claudius’ plan to kill him?
2. Explain Claudius’ and Laertes’ “Plan A” and “Plan B.”
3. Who does Hamlet want to tell his story?
4. Who takes over as King of Denmark and what does he promise at the end of the play?

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| **Citizenship** | **4.0** | **3.0** | **2.0** | **1.0** |
| **Task completion** | I go above and beyond assignment requirements; I seek extra knowledge without teacher prompting. | My work is on time, completed and shows my best effort. | I am inconsistent with turning work in on time, completing assignments and demonstrating my best effort. | I require teacher prompting to complete tasks in a professional manner and/or fail to do so regularly. |