***To Be Or Not To Be***

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| **Hamlet.**  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. To die, to sleep—  No more--and by a sleep to say we end  The heartache and the thousand natural shocks  That flesh is heir to--'tis a **consummation**  Devoutly to be wished. To die, to sleep—  To sleep, **perchance** to dream. Ay, there's the **rub**,  For in that sleep of death what dreams may come,  When we have shuffled off this **mortal coil**,  Must give us **pause**. There's the r**espect**  That makes calamity of so long life.  For who would bear the whips and **scorns of time**,  Th' oppressor's wrong, the proud man's **contumely**,  The pangs of **despised** love, the law's delay,  The insolence of **office**, and the **spurns**  That patient **merit** of th' unworthy takes,  When he himself might his **quietus** make  With a **bare** **bodkin**? Who would **fardels** bear,  To grunt and sweat under a weary life,  But that the dread of something after death,  The undiscovered country from whose **bourn**  No traveler returns, **puzzles** the will  And makes us rather bear those ills we have  Than fly to others that we know not of?  Thus **conscience** does make cowards of us all,  And thus the **native hue** of resolution  Is **sicklied o'er** with the pale **cast of thought**,  And enterprises of great **pith** and **moment**  With this **regard** their currents turn awry  And lose the name of action. | **outrageous** (adj.) cruel  **consummation** (n.) fitting end, crowning fulfillment [of life]  **perchance** (adv.) perhaps, maybe  **rub** (n.) obstacle, impediment, hindrance  **coil** (n.) turmoil, disturbance, fuss  **mortal** (adj.) human, subject to death, characterized by mortality  **pause** (n.) hesitation, delay  **respect** (n.) consideration, factor, circumstance  **scorn** (n.) mockery, taunt, insult, act of derision  **time** (n.) 1(the) world, (the) age, society  **contumely** (n.) scorn, insult, abuse  **dispised** (adj.) unvalued, held in contempt, disparaged  **office** (n.) officialdom, people who hold office  **spurn** (n.) contemptuous treatment, scornful rejection  **merit** (n.) deserving person, righteous individual  **quietus** (n.) discharge, clearing of accounts, release  **bare** (adj.) mere, simple  **bodkin** (n.) dagger [or other pointed weapon]  **fardel** (n.) burden, load, bundle  **bourn** (n.) frontier, destination, boundary  **puzzle** (v.) bewilder, perplex, baffle  **conscience** (n.) internal reflection, inner voice, inmost thought  **native hue** (n.) reddish complexion  **cast** (n.) tinge, shade, hue  **sickly over** (v.) cover with a sickly hue, make pallid  **thought** (n.) melancholic reflection, anxiety, sorrow, worry  **moment** (n.) importance, weight, consequence  **pith** (n.) importance, weight, gravity  **regard** (n.) consideration, respect, factor |

***To Be Or Not To Be* Reading Exercise**

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| **A** But what is there after death? This is a difficult question and maybe there are more problems afterwards! So we prefer to tolerate the problems we have now. |
| **B** Who wants to fight against so many problems? We could find peace by killing ourselves. |
| **C** This is one great way of avoiding these problems – then we can sleep. |
| **D** Is it better to tolerate problems and difficulties, or to fight them? |
| **E** But there is another problem: if we die, we sleep, and if we sleep, we might dream. But what kind of dreams would we have? |

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| **1.** The dread of something after death,  The undiscover'd country from whose bourn  No traveller returns, puzzles the will  And makes us rather bear those ills we have  Than fly to others that we know not of?  Thus conscience does make cowards of us all |
| **2.** For who would bear the whips and scorns of time,  The oppressor's wrong, the proud man's contumely,  The pangs of despised love, the law's delay,  The insolence of office and the spurns  That patient merit of the unworthy takes,  When he himself might his quietus make  With a bare bodkin? |
| **3.** 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? |
| **4.** To die: to sleep;  No more; and by a sleep to say we end  The heart-ache and the thousand natural shocks  That flesh is heir to, 'tis a consummation  Devoutly to be wish'd. |
| **5.** To die, to sleep;  To sleep: perchance to dream: ay, there's the rub;  For in that sleep of death what dreams may come  When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,  Must give us pause |

***To Be Or Not To Be* Vocabulary Exercise**

In his famous soliloquy in Act III, Hamlet talks about various things that make life difficult. For example, he mentions “the oppressor’s wrong”. Can you think of a modern example of this?

**Directions:** Can you match these to the following examples with Hamlet’s descriptions?

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| **A** Your arrogant friend never treats you with respect |
| **B** You feel old |
| **C** The flowers you send to someone you like are returned |
| **D** Your legal case takes years to be decided |
| **E** You are always nice to someone who treats you badly |
| **F** Your boss is rude to you all the time |

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| **1. The whips and scorns of time** |
| **2. The proud man's contumely** |
| **3. The pangs of despised love** |
| **4. The law's delay** |
| **5. The insolence of office** |
| **6. The spurns that patient merit of the unworthy takes** |

Have you experienced any of these problems? Can you add any more examples?

***To Be Or Not To Be* Writing Exercise**

**Directions:** Now you’re going to compose some advice for Hamlet. Take a look at the questions below. What would you say to him? Try structuring your advice by beginning with phrases such as “You should” and “If I were you”. Write your advice on a separate sheet of paper.

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| Is it better to **“suffer The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,**  **And by opposing end them?”** Why? |
| Is it better to **“quietus make With a bare bodkin”** than to **“bear the whips and scorns of time”**? Why? |
| Is it right to feel **“The dread of something after death”**? Why? |
| Do you think Hamlet will get over his crisis? What will he do next? |