William Shakespeare

Answer the questions about William Shakespeare.

1. Where and when was he born?
2. Where was William educated?
3. Why did William decide to become an actor?
4. What most famous Shakespeare's plays do you know?
5. What else besides plays did Shakespeare write?

Match the beginning of the quote with its end.

1. "This above all: …	a. and all the men and women merely players"
2. "All the world's a stage …	b. but with the mind"
3. "Love looks not with eyes …	c. the soul of wit"
4. "Brevity is …	d. to thin own self be true"
5. "It's not enough to speak …	e. that loved not at first sight?"
6. "Who ever loved …	f. of love, play on"
7. "If music be the food …	g. but to speak true"

Hamlet

Introduction

Hamlet is probably the best-known character from Shakespeare's plays. He's young man who has to deal with the terrible trauma caused by his father's murder. What intrigues many theatre-goers and literary critics is Hamlets psychological make-up. **Is he strong or weak? Is he really mad or is he only pretending?** These and many more questions continue to be asked about this fascinating character.

Do you know the characters of the play? Match the character with the description.

1. Hamlet	a) Polonius's son
2. Ghost of Old Hamlet	b) Polonius's daughter, in love with Hamlet
3. Claudius	c) Prince of Denmark
4. Gertrude	d) Current King of Denmark
5. Polonius	e) Queen of Denmark and Hamlet's mother
6. Ophelia	f) Hamlet's father and former king
7. Laertes	g) close adviser to Claudius

Read the brief summary of "Hamlet". Open the brackets using the necessary grammar structures.

Claudius (1.kill) his brother Old Hamlet, (2.marry) his widow Gertrude and (3.become) King of Denmark. One evening Hamlet (4.see) his father's ghost who (5.ask) him to avenge his death. From that day on he (6.start) to act strangely and (7.seem), to many people, (8.go mad). He dearly (9.want) to get revenge by (10.kill) Claudius but finds it hard to actually do it.

He rejects Ophelia, and continues (11.behave) very oddly. Claudius begins (12.suspect) that he might know something about the murder and asks Polonius to spy on him.

While Hamlet (13.talk) to his mother, Polonius hides behind a curtain to overhear what (14.say). Hamlet realizes someone (15.be) there and stabs Polonius to death through the curtain.

Claudius then decides (16.send) Hamlet away to England with two of courtiers (Rosencrantz and Guildenstern), who are under orders to kill him. Hamlet outsmarts them and returns home to learn that Ophelia (17.die) in a state of madness and desperation.

In a final attempt (18.get rid of) Hamlet, Claudius organizes a sword fight between him and Laertes. His plan (19.go) terribly wrong, however, and although Hamlet does die, Claudius, Gertrude and Laertes also (20.kill).