

## Best Known Quotes from *Hamlet*

**"This above all: to thine own self be true."**

- Polonius, Act I, Scene III

**"Words without thoughts never to heaven go."**

- Act III, Scene III

**"A rhapsody of words."**

- Act III, Scene IV

**"I must be cruel, only to be kind."**

- Act III, Scene IV

**"The play's the thing, wherein I'll catch the conscience of the King."**

- Act II, Scene II

**"To be, or not to be: that is the question."**

- Act III, Scene I

**"For 'tis the sport to have the engineer hoist with his own petard."**

- Act III, Scene IV

**"Neither a borrower nor a lender be; for loan oft loses both itself and friend, and borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry".**

- Act I, Scene III

**"There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy."**

- Act I, Scene V

**"Rich gifts wax poor when givers prove unkind."**

- Ophelia, Act III, Scene I

**"the rest is silence"**

- Hamlet as he dies, Act V, Scene II

**"We go to gain a little patch of ground, that hath in it no profit but the name."**

- Act IV, Scene IV

**"Though this be madness, yet there is method in 't."**

- Act II, Scene II

**"Get thee to a nunnery, go."**

- Act III, Scene I

**"That it should come to this!"**

- Act I, Scene II

**"Lord! we know what we are, but know not what we may be."**

- Act IV, Scene V

**"There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so"**

- Act II, Scene II

**"What a piece of work is man! how noble in reason! how infinite in faculty! "**

- Act II, Scene II

**"The lady doth protest too much, methinks".**

- Act III, Scene II

**"In my mind's eye".**

- Act I, Scene II

**"A little more than kin, and less than kind".**

- Act I, Scene II

**"Now cracks a noble heart. Good-night, sweet prince, and flights of angels sing thee to thy rest!"**

- Act V, Scene II

**"Brevity is the soul of wit."**

- Act II, Scene II

**"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are dead."**

- Act V, Scene II

**"Sweets to the sweet: farewell!"**

- Act V, Scene I

**"Alas, poor Yorick! I knew him, Horatio: A fellow of infinite jest, of most excellent fancy."**

- Act V, Scene I

**"Give thy thoughts no tongue."**

- Act I, Scene III

**"The apparel oft proclaims the man."**

- Act I, Scene III

**"Something is rotten in the state of Denmark."**

- Act I, Scene IV

**"Murder most foul."**

- Act I, Scene V

**"More matter, with less art."**

- Act II, Scene II

**"To be honest as this world goes, is to be one man  
picked out of ten thousand."**

- Act II, Scene II

**"And it must follow, as the night the day, thou canst  
not then be false to any man".**

- Act I, Scene III

**"Let Hercules himself do what he may, the cat will  
mew and every dog will have his day."**

- Act V, Scene I

**"The devil hath power to assume a pleasing shape."**

- Act II, Scene II

**"Let me be cruel, not unnatural; I will speak daggers  
to her, but use none."**

- Act III, Scene II

**"Come, my coach! Good-night ladies; good night,  
sweet ladies; good night."**

- Act IV, Scene V

**"When sorrows come, they come not single spies,  
but in battalions."**

- Act IV, Scene V

**"Frailty, thy name is woman---"**

- Act I, Scene II

**"I am but mad north-northwest"**

- Act II, Scene II

(Used by Alfred Hitchcock for his film title *North by  
Northwest*, denoting appearance versus reality. )

**"But to my mind, - though I am native here and to  
the manner born, - it is a custom more honoured in  
the breach than the observance."**

- Act I, Scene IV

**"Unhand me, gentlemen. By heaven, I'll make a  
ghost of him that lets me!"**

- Act I, Scene IV

**"Diseases desperate grown by desperate appliance  
are relieved, or not at all."**

- Act IV, Scene III

**"Madness in great ones must not unwatched go."**

- Claudius, Act III, Scene 1

## **MORE QUOTES FROM HAMLET**

**"Give me that man that is not passion's slave, and I  
will wear him in my heart's core."**

- Act III, Scene II

**"Are you like the painting of a sorrow, a face without  
a heart?"**

- Claudius, Act IV, Scene VII

**"O day and night, but this is wondrous strange!"**

- Act I, Scene V

**"Imperious Caesar, dead and turned to clay, might  
stop a hole to keep the wind away."**

- Act V, Scene 1

**"There is special providence in the fall of a sparrow.  
If it be now, 'tis not to come; if it be not to come,  
it will be now; if it be not now, yet it will come. The  
readiness is all."**

- Act V, Scene II

**"This is the very ecstasy of love"**

- Act II, Scene I

**"Do you think I am easier to be played on than a  
pipe?" Hamlet Quote**

-Act III, Scene II

**"All that lives must die, passing through nature to  
eternity."**

- Act I, Scene II

**To define true madness, what is't but to be nothing  
else but mad?"**

- Act II, Scene II

**"Our wills and fates do so contrary run that our  
devices still are overthrown."**

- Act III, Scene II

**"Let the galled jade wince our withers are unwrung."**

- Act III, Scene II

**"What! frightened with false fire?"**

- Act III, Scene II

**"Why, let the stricken deer go weep, the hart  
ungalled play; for some must watch, while some  
must sleep: so runs the world away."**

- Act III, Scene II

**"You would play upon me; you would seem to know my stops; you would pluck out the heart of my mystery; you would sound me from my lowest note to the top of my compass."**

- Act III, Scene II

**"'Tis now the very witching time of night..."**

- Act III, Scene II

**"O, my offence is rank, it smells to heaven."**

- Act III, Scene III

**"Dead, for a ducat, dead!"**

- Act III, Scene IV

**"A bloody deed! almost as bad, good mother, as kill a king, and marry with his brother."**

- Act III, Scene IV

**"Thou wretched, rash, intruding fool, farewell! I took thee for thy better."**

- Act III, Scene IV

**"You cannot call it love, for at your age the hey-day in the blood is tame, it's humble, and waits upon the judgment."**

- Act III, Scene IV

**"Speak no more; thou turn'st mine eyes into my very soul"**

- Act III, Scene IV

**"Confess yourself to heaven; repent what's past; avoid what is to come."**

- Act III, Scene IV

**"Nay, but to live In the rank sweat of an unseamed bed, stewed in corruption, honeying and making love over the nasty sty."**

- Act III, Scene IV

**"A cutpurse of the empire and the rule, that from a shelf the precious diadem stole, and put it in his pocket!"**

- Act III, Scene IV

**"A king of shreds and patches."**

- Act III, Scene IV

**"Mother, for love of grace, lay not that flattering unction to your soul."**

- Act III, Scene IV

**"'Tis as easy as lying."**

- Act III, Scene II

**"By and by is easily said."**

- Act III, Scene II

**"Assume a virtue, if you have it not. That monster, custom, who all sense doth eat, of habits devil, is angel yet in this."**

- Act III, Scene IV

**"A man may fish with the worm that hath eat of a king, and eat of the fish that hath fed of that worm."**

- Act IV, Scene III

**"Sure, he that made us with such large discourse, looking before and after, gave us not that capability and godlike reason to fust in us unused."**

- Act IV, Scene IV

**"Rightly to be great is not to stir without great argument, but greatly to find quarrel in a straw when honour's at the stake."**

- Act IV, Scene IV

**"How should I your true love know from another one? By his cockle hat and staff, and sandal shoon."**

- Act IV, Scene V

**"He is dead and gone, lady, he is dead and gone, at his head a green-grass tuft; at his heels a stone."**

- Act IV, Scene V

**"To-morrow is Saint Valentine's day, all in the morning betime."**

- Act IV, Scene V

**"Then up he rose, and donn'd his clothes."**

- Act IV, Scene V

**"There's such divinity doth hedge a king, that treason can but peep to what it would."**

- Act IV, Scene V

**"There's rosemary, that's for remembrance; pray, love, remember: and there is pansies, that's for thoughts."**

- Act IV, Scene V

**"His beard was as white as snow."**

- Act IV, Scene V

**"His means of death, his obscure burial, no trophy, sword, nor hatchment o'er his bones, no noble rite nor formal ostentation."**

- Act IV, Scene V

**"And where the offence is let the great axe fall."**

- Act IV, Scene V

**"Cudgel thy brains no more about it, for your dull ass will not mend his pace with beating."**

- Act V, Scene I

**"But age, with his stealing steps hath clawed me in his clutch."**

- Act V, Scene I

**"The age is grown so picked that the toe of the peasant comes so near the heel of the courtier, he galls his kibe."**

- Act V, Scene I

**"To what base uses we may return, Horatio! So hallow'd and so gracious is the time."**

- Act V, Scene I

**"Lay her in the earth; and from her fair and unpolluted flesh may violets spring!"**

- Act V, Scene I

**"A ministering angel shall my sister be."**

- Act V, Scene I

**"I am more an antique Roman than a Dane."**

- Act V, Scene II

**"I thought thy bride-bed to have decked, sweet maid, and not have strewed thy grave."**

- Act V, Scene I

**"Though I am not splenitive and rash, yet have I something in me dangerous."**

- Act V, Scene I

**"I loved Ophelia: Forty thousand brothers could not, with all their quantity of love, make up my sum."**

- Act V, Scene I

**"There's a divinity that shapes our ends, rough-hew them how we will."**

- Act V, Scene II

**"I once did hold it, as our statistes do, a baseness to write fair, and labored much how to forget that learning; but, sir, now it did me yeoman's service."**

- Act V, Scene II

**"I have shot mine arrow o'er the house, and hurt my brother."**

- Act V, Scene II

**"A hit, a very palpable hit."**

- Act V, Scene II

**"I am justly killed with my own treachery."**

- Act V, Scene II

**"This fell sergeant, death, is strict in his arrest."**

- Act V, Scene II

**"Report me and my cause aright to the unsatisfied."**

- Act V, Scene II

**"If thou didst ever hold me in thy heart, absent thee from felicity awhile, and in this harsh world draw thy breath in pain, to tell my story."**

- Act V, Scene II

**"Let four captains bear Hamlet, like a soldier, to the stage; for he was likely, had he been put on, to have proved most royally."**

- Act V, Scene II

**"Doubt that the sun doth move, doubt truth to be a liar, but never doubt I love"**

-Act II, Scene II