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Mary Ellen Dakin

### Hamlet's Speech

These lines are from the New Folger Edition. You may choose to include the lines from the rest of the scene as well.

HORATIO

Look, my lord, it comes!

*Enter Ghost*

HAMLET

Angels and ministers of grace, defend us!  
Be thou a spirit of health or goblin damned,  
Bring with thee airs from heaven or blasts from hell,  
Be thy intents wicked or charitable,  
Thou com'st in such a questionable shape  
That I will speak to thee. I'll call thee "Hamlet,"  
"King," "Father," "Royal Dane." O, answer me!  
Let me not burst in ignorance, but tell  
Why thy canonized bones, hearsed in death,  
Have burst their cerements; why the sepulcher,  
Wherein we saw thee quietly interred,  
Hath oped his ponderous and marble jaws,  
To cast thee up again. What may this mean  
That thou, dead corse, again in complete steel,  
Revisits thus the glimpses of the moon,  
Making night hideous, and we fools of nature  
So horridly to shake our disposition  
With thoughts beyond the reaches of our souls?  
Say, why is this? Wherefore? What should we do?

*Ghost beckons HAMLET*