

Quotation	Who said it to whom	Act / Scene	What it tells the audience
'... valiant Hamlet'	Horatio about King Hamlet	1.1	King Hamlet was brave (left a great deal for his son to live up to). He was well respected by his people.
'... the sheeted dead'	Horatio recalls omens that preceded Caesar's death	1.1	Sets up the idea that disasters lie ahead following the sight of the Ghost.
'... the morn, in russet mantle clad'	Horatio as the sun rises	1.1	Beautiful personification / imagery of the sunrise.
'...our dear brother's death The memory be green...'	Claudius to court	1.1	Irony of 'dear' – as he's his brother's killer. Acknowledges the death was recent.
'A little more than kin, and less than kind'	Hamlet aside about Claudius	1.1	Uses puns to show that he's unhappy with Claudius being so closely related now he's wed Gertrude. First words from Hamlet – tells audience he's witty, clever and not a fan of Claudius!
'... my inky cloak'	Hamlet about his sadness	1.1	A metaphor to show how miserable Hamlet is as he grieves for his father.
'... 'tis unmanly grief'	Claudius to Hamlet	1.1	Claudius suggests that Hamlet's grieving is excessive. Shows Claudius' evil nature as it is he who has caused Hamlet's grief.
'O, that this too too solid flesh would melt'	Hamlet's first soliloquy	1.2	Considers suicide – won't because it's against God's law. Blank verse shows status and soliloquy reveals honest emotions.
'Hyperion to a satyr'	ditto	1.2	Describes father as sun God and Claudius as a satyr (lecherous men / goat creatures).
'... frailty, thy name is woman'	ditto	1.2	Condemns all women for being weak – based on his mother's too speedy marriage – first evidence of misogynous tendencies?
'O, most wicked speed'	ditto	1.2	Hamlet's fury at how quickly his mother re-married.
'... incestuous sheets'	ditto	1.2	Sees the marriage as immoral – like incest.
'But break, my heart, for I must hold my tongue'	ditto	1.2	Genuine grief – we feel sympathy for Hamlet – wants to try and contain his disapproval.
'... All is not well. / I doubt some foul play'	Hamlet on own	1.2	He believes that his father's ghost is a sign that his death was suspicious.

'Forward, not permanent, sweet, not lasting'	Laertes to Ophelia	1.3	About Hamlet's affections – suggests they are a passing fancy. Use of doubling here.
'... to thine own self be true'	Polonius to Laertes	1.3	Wise words from a 'fool'. Irony? Are any of the characters true to themselves?
'Do not believe his vows'	Polonius to Ophelia	1.3	Warning her that Hamlet's assertions of love are false - both Laertes & Polonius have said this.
'Something is rotten in the state of Denmark'	Marcellus	1.4	An ominous warning after Hamlet follows the Ghost – creates a sense of corruption.
'Revenge his foul and most unnatural murder'	The Ghost to Hamlet	1.5	The request which spurs the central plot.
'... that incestuous, that adulterate beast'	Ghost about Claudius	1.5	Language which Hamlet will later echo.
'... I have been so affrighted'	Ophelia to Polonius	2.1	Fearful of Hamlet's strange behaviour.
'This is the very ecstasy of love'	Polonius to Ophelia	2.1	Mistakenly takes Hamlet's odd behaviour as being due to an infatuation with Ophelia.
'I did repel his letters'	Ophelia to Polonius	2.1	Shows she's obedient to her father.
'My too much changed son'	Ophelia to R & G	2.2	Recognises how Hamlet is behaving.
'Hamlet's lunacy'	Polonius to Claudius	2.2	Shows how all are noticing Hamlet's peculiar conduct.
'... brevity is the soul of wit'	Polonius to Claudius	2.2	Irony! Polonius always takes ages to say what needs to be said!
'... never doubt I love'	Hamlet in letter to Ophelia	2.2	Playing with words but is this evidence that Hamlet really did love her?
'... the madness wherein now he raves'	Polonius to C & G	2.2	Convinced that Hamlet is mad.
'Though this be madness, yet there is method in't'	Polonius to Hamlet	2.2	He rightly guesses that Hamlet's seeming madness is carefully crafted for purpose.
'Denmark's a prison'	Hamlet to R & G	2.2	Shows how Hamlet feels trapped.
'a coward... pigeon-livered'	Hamlet soliloquy about himself	2.2	Self-reproach – Hamlet's not convinced that he can carry out revenge.
'Remorseless, treacherous, lecherous, kindless villain!'	Hamlet soliloquy	2.2	His thoughts about Claudius.
'... The play's the thing/ Wherein I'll catch the conscience of the king.'	Hamlet soliloquy	2.2	Shows courage as he plots the first stage of his revenge through the play within the play.
'To be, or not to be: that is the question:'	Hamlet soliloquy	3.1	Again, pondering thoughts of suicide.
'The fair Ophelia!'	Hamlet to Ophelia	3.1	Kind words before he turns against her.

'Get thee to a nunnery:.'	Hamlet to Ophelia	3.1	Repeated phrase suggesting she's a whore – nunnery also meant a brothel.
'God hath given you one face and you make yourselves another.'	Hamlet to Ophelia	3.1	Misogynistic again? Suggesting all women are two faced. He's right though – Ophelia had spied on him for Claudius & Polonius.
'... cousin Hamlet,.'	Claudius to Hamlet	3.2	Suggests a family affection – though false.
'... the chameleon's dish'	Hamlet in reply	3.2	Hints that Claudius is not what he seems.
'Do you think I meant country matters?'	Hamlet to Ophelia	3.2	During the play, Hamlet uses crude and offensive language to Ophelia – suggesting he's thinking of sex.
'... look you how cheerfully my mother looks, and my father died within two hours'	Hamlet to Ophelia	3.2	Shows anger at the happiness of his widowed mother.
'The lady doth protest too much methinks'	Gertrude to Hamlet	3.2	Gertrude seems unaware of the reason for Hamlet's questioning during the play.
'A poisons him i'th' garden for's estate'	Hamlet to court	3.2	He makes it clear that the play king is poisoned, hoping to prick Claudius' conscience.
'Give me some light: away!'	Claudius to Lords	3.2	He makes an excuse to leave the hall – a sign of guilt in Hamlet's eyes.
'... my wit's diseased'	Hamlet to Rosencrantz	3.2	Hamlet suggests that his usual flair with words is failing him.
'I will speak daggers to her but use none'	Hamlet soliloquy	3.2	He tells the audience how he intends to speak to his mother.
'I like him not'	Claudius to Guildenstern	3.3	Claudius' real feelings towards Hamlet are made clear.
'Oh, my offence is rank'	Claudius soliloquy	3.3	Claudius' confession.
'All may be well'	Claudius soliloquy	3.3	Hoping that by prayer, his sins are forgiven – dramatic irony – the audience know of Hamlet's intentions.
'My words fly up, my thoughts remain below'	Claudius soliloquy	3.3	Telling the audience that he doesn't intend his confession to be known beyond God.
'Hamlet, thou hast thy father much offended'	Gertrude to Hamlet	3.4	Shows her lack of understanding by suggesting that Hamlet should care about Claudius.

'Mother, you have my father much offended'	Hamlet to Gertrude in reply	3.4	Uses her phrasing to play on the words – reminds her that her hasty marriage is an offence to King Hamlet.
'A bloody deed. Almost as bad, good mother, As kill a king and marry with his brother.'	Hamlet to Gertrude	3.4	A couplet in which he tells her what he knows about Claudius' involvement in his father's death.
'O shame, where is thy blush?'	Hamlet to Gertrude	3.4	Suggests that as Gertrude doesn't show embarrassment, she's party to the murder.
'This is the very coinage of your brain'	Gertrude to Hamlet	3.4	She can't see the Ghost and suggests that it's all in Hamlet's imagination – casting doubt for the audience.
'I must be cruel only to be kind'	Hamlet to Gertrude	3.4	A sane comment implying fondness for his mother and, perhaps, Ophelia?
'... I essentially am not in madness/ But mad in craft.'	Hamlet to Gertrude	3.4	Echoing Polonius' earlier observation that Hamlet's madness is a pretence for a purpose.
'Mad as the sea and wind'	Gertrude to Claudius	4.1	A simile to describe Hamlet's mental state.
'... if indeed you find him not within this month, you shall nose him as you go up the stairs...'	Hamlet to Claudius	4.3	A gross and cold joke from Hamlet about the whereabouts of Polonius' body.
'The present death of Hamlet. Do it, England'	Claudius soliloquy	4.3	Makes it clear to the audience that Hamlet is being sent to his death.
'... The queen his mother/ Lives almost by his looks,'	Claudius to Laertes	4.7	An excuse as to why he hasn't arrested Hamlet after the murder of Polonius.
'... my revenge will come'	Laertes to Claudius	4.7	An ominous declaration, suggesting impending tragedy.
'... are you like the painting of a sorrow, A face without a heart?'	Claudius to Laertes	4.7	A simile of emotional blackmail – suggesting that if Laertes loved his father, he'd seek revenge.
'Revenge should have no bounds'	Claudius to Laertes	4.7	An ironic statement – the finale of the play shows 'no bounds' but ends in tragedy.
'Fell in the weeping brook... Drowned, drowned'	Gertrude to Laertes	4.7	Telling of Ophelia's fate.
'Alas, poor Yorick! I knew him, Horatio'	Hamlet to Horatio	5.1	Hamlet famously musing about physical and moral corruption.

'I loved Ophelia; forty thousand brothers Could not with all their quantity of love Make up my sum.'	Hamlet to Claudius	5.1	A declaration of love by the graveside. Genuine?
'He that hath killed my king and whored my mother'	Hamlet to Horatio	5.2	A lucid and blunt analysis being revealed to his friend – the madness seems to have gone?
'... this canker of our nature'	Hamlet to Horatio	5.2	A metaphor describing Claudius as a disease of humanity.
'... I will gain nothing but my shame and the odd hits.'	Hamlet to Osric	5.2	Dramatic irony in this prose. The audience know that Hamlet is bound to be killed.
'You will lose, my lord'	Horatio to Hamlet	5.2	A knowing prophesy contrasting with Hamlet's belief that the fight will be a minor event.
'Give me your pardon, sir, I've done you wrong'	Hamlet to Laertes	5.2	He confesses his guilt to Laertes and asks for forgiveness – gaining sympathy from the audience.
'... I here proclaim was madness'	Hamlet to Laertes	5.2	Trying to excuse his actions.
'I do receive your offered love like love, And will not wrong it'	Laertes to Hamlet	5.2	A pretence at accepting Hamlet's apology – however, the audience know his intentions.
'Our son shall win'	Claudius to Gertrude	5.2	Ironically suggesting that he cares about Hamlet, although he has planned his murder.
'Gertrude, do not drink!'	Claudius to Gertrude	5.2	A feeble attempt by a husband to prevent his wife being poisoned.
'I am justly killed with mine own treachery.'	Laertes to Osric	5.2	A dying Laertes acknowledges that he was morally wrong.
'... O my dear Hamlet! ... I am poisoned'	Gertrude to Hamlet	5.2	Her dying words of affection and warning (?) are to Hamlet – only now perhaps does she believe in Claudius' guilt.
'... the King's to blame'	Laertes to Court	5.2	Ensures that all know of his guilt.
'... thou incestuous, murderous, damned Dane / Drink off this potion.'	Hamlet to Claudius	5.2	The climax of Hamlet's wrath against Claudius.
'... the rest is silence.'	Hamlet to Horatio	5.2	Hamlet's final words. Ambiguity.
'... Good night sweet prince, And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest'	Horatio about Hamlet	5.2	A suitably poignant farewell from Hamlet's closest friend. Sure to elicit tears from an audience.
'Bear Hamlet like a soldier to the stage'	Fortinbras to Horatio	5.2	He insists that Hamlet is carried with due ceremony.