

1. What choices was Hamlet pondering in his “To be or not to be?” soliloquy?

It is a choice whether to be alive with suffering from anger and sorrow or to be dead to end all pain. If we kill ourselves, we could remove all unhappiness. However, we could not be sure that life after death is always beautiful, it may be worse than our usual lives. Since, there is no one come back for the death and tell us how well is their lives.

2. What challenge did he face in his life at that time? What would you have done in his situation?

After the former king, his father, died mysteriously, his mother and the new king, his uncle, got married in a short time. Hamlet was very mournful. He found a ghost which claimed to be his father. It told him that actually his father was poisoned by his uncle. He was so furious that he wanted to get revenge. If I were in his situation, I would not let my mom marry my uncle. Moreover, I would not believe what the ghost had told until I found out the truth by myself. However, if the things didn't go on as I hoped. I would try to get myself out of my normal life, maybe go to work in the rural area or go on a vacation to give myself a time to consider what to do. I, personally, don't believe in revenge. We get nothing from revenge but making ourselves sticking to the sorrow. We have to let go of the past to start again.

3. What did Hamlet decide to do? What things did he do (or not do) that eventually led to the tragic end of the play?

Hamlet decided to revenge but he tested the ghost's words by performing a play first. After got a sign, he started a plan to kill his uncle. However, he accidentally killed Polonius, his uncle's consultant and Ophelia's father. This made his lover Ophelia so agonized that she committed a suicide. Also Laertes, Polonius's son and Ophelia's brother, he wanted to get revenge so he conspired with the King to kill Hamlet.

4. What do his actions say of his personality? What kind of man was Hamlet?

After two months of his father's death, Hamlet was still grieving and not letting go. This means that he was a person who clung to the past. Pondering too much, Hamlet is considered to be pensive and fluctuated.

5. Do you think Hamlet was overcome with insanity during the course of the play?

Although, at first, the insanity was his play, it seemed like eventually he became what he played. After all tragedies he had faced, losing his father and his lovers, this is too hard for a person to stay conscious without any love and comfort from his friends or family.