

“To be or not to be”, Shakespeare, Hamlet, Act III, Scene 1. This is probably the most famous passage Shakespeare wrote about life and death.

This video is from Laurence Olivier’s film version of Hamlet: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ks-NbCHUms>

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To be, or not to be, that is the question: Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,	1	Etre, ou ne pas être, c'est là la question. Y a-t-il plus de noblesse d'âme à subir la fronde et les flèches de la fortune outrageante,	Whether 'tis nobler = Est-ce qu'il est plus noble Sling = fronde / arrow = flèche
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles And by opposing end them. To die—to sleep, No more; and by a sleep to say we end The heart-ache and the thousand natural shocks	5	ou bien à s'armer contre une mer de douleurs et à l'arrêter par une révolte ?. Mourir... dormir, rien de plus ;... et dire que par ce sommeil nous mettons fin aux maux du coeur et aux mille tortures naturelles	Troubles : ici douleurs
That flesh is heir to: 'tis a consummation Devoutly to be wish'd... ...To die, to sleep; To sleep, perchance to dream—ay, there's the rub: For in that sleep of death what dreams may come, When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,	10	qui sont le legs de la chair : c'est là un dénouement qu'on doit souhaiter avec ferveur.	Shocks = chocs (ici tortures) Flesh = chair / heir = héritier (ici legs) Consummation = couronnement, achèvement (ici dénouement)
Must give us pause—there's the respect That makes calamity of so long life.	15	Mourir... dormir, dormir ! peut-être rêver ! Oui, là est l'embaras.	Per chance = par chance (ici peut-être) There's the rub = c'est là que le bât blesse Sleep of death = sommeil de la mort
For who would bear the whips and scorns of time, Th'oppressor's wrong, the proud man's contumely, The pangs of dispriz'd love, the law's delay,	20	Car quels rêves peut-il nous venir dans ce sommeil de la mort, quand nous sommes débarrassés de l'étreinte de cette vie ?.	Shuffle off this mortal coil = quitter ce monde
The insolence of office, and the spurns That patient merit of th'unworthy takes, When he himself might his quietus make With a bare bodkin?...	25	Voilà qui doit nous arrêter. C'est cette réflexion- là qui nous vaut la calamité d'une si longue existence.	
...Who would fardels bear,	30	Qui, en effet, voudrait supporter les flagellations, et les dédains du monde, l'injure de l'oppresseur, l'humiliation de la pauvreté, les angoisses de l'amour méprisé, les lenteurs de la loi, l'insolence du pouvoir, et les rebuffades que le mérite résigné reçoit d'hommes indignes, s'il pouvait en être quitte avec un simple poinçon ?...	Whips = fouets / scorn(s) = mépris Wrong = tort (ici injure) Contumely mépris
	35	...Qui voudrait porter ces fardeaux,	Spurn = rejet Patient merit = mérit patient (ici résigné) Bodkin (old English) = passe-lacet Fardel (old English) = fardeau

<p>To grunt and sweat under a weary life, But that the dread of something after death, The undiscover'd country, from whose bourn No traveller returns, puzzles the will, And makes us rather bear those ills we have Than fly to others that we know not of?</p> <p>Thus conscience does make cowards of us all, And thus the native hue of resolution Is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought,</p> <p>And enterprises of great pitch and moment With this regard their currents turn awry And lose the name of action.</p>	<p>40</p> <p>45</p> <p>50</p>	<p>grogner et suer sous une vie accablante, si la crainte de quelque chose après la mort, de cette région inexplorée, d'où nul voyageur ne revient, ne troublait la volonté, et ne nous faisait supporter les maux que nous avons par peur de nous lancer dans ceux que nous ne connaissons pas ?.</p> <p>Ainsi la conscience fait de nous tous des lâches ; ainsi les couleurs natives de la résolution blêmissent sous les pâles reflets de la pensée ;</p> <p>ainsi les entreprises les plus énergiques et les plus importantes se détournent de leur cours, à cette idée, et perdent le nom d'action...</p>	<p>Grunt = grognement / weary = las, fatigué Dread = peur (ici crainte) Boum ??</p> <p>To bear = porter, supporter To fly = voler</p> <p>Coward = lâche Hue = teint, couleur Sicklied = malade</p> <p>Pitch n. = niveau, ton</p>

Reading comprehension:

Question:

1/ Which words describe the view of life given here by Hamlet?

Arbitrary / sweet / unfair/ pleasant/ hard/ predictable / unchanging / chaotic / fun / peaceful / tumultuous

2/ Hamlet describes death as sleep, but it also..

Calming / a paradise / restful / empty / unknow /

3/ Why are we afraid to end our lives according to this text?.....

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If this is all too serious, remember the following attitudes to life summarised by the American writer Kurt Vonnegut (apparently):

To be is to do. – Socrates

To do is to be. – Sartres

Do be do be do. – Frank Sinatra.

Listen to Sinatra singing "Strangers in the Night" here (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZwAERaRUsp0>) and complete the text (see the words below).

Strangers in the night _____ glances
Wond'ring in the night
What were the _____ we'd be _____ love
Before the night was through.

Something in your eyes was so _____ ,
Something in your smile was so _____ ,
Something in my _____ ,
Told me I must have you.

Strangers in the night, two _____ people
We were strangers in the night
Up to the moment
When we said our first hello.
Little did we know
Love was just a glance away,
A warm embracing _____ away and –

Ever since that night we've been _____.

Lovers at first sight, in love _____.

It turned out so right,
For strangers in the night.

Love was just a glance away,
A warm embracing dance away -

Ever since that night we've been together.
Lovers at first sight, in love forever.

It _____ out so right,
For strangers in the night.

Do dody doby do
do doo de la
da da da da ya

Check the spelling here: sharing / lonely / forever / exciting / exchanging / heart / together / dance / chances / inviting / turned