

THE INDECISIVE PRINCE  
Based on Shakespeare's 'Hamlet'

Literacy and Art



TWO  
MINUTE  
TALES  
from  
SHAKESPEARE

*Introduction to Shakespeares's Hamlet, reimagined for little ones by Hopster's Two Minute Tales. The Indecisive Prince tells a two-minute tale about Hamlet; a Prince who just can't make up his mind.*



**Learning Aim:** To meet key characters, learn about the setting and plot of The Indecisive Prince.

**The Play:** The ghost of Hamlet's dad visits him and tells him that his Uncle Claudius was responsible for his murder. Claudius is now King but Hamlet must seek revenge. Hamlet is full of uncertainties and doesn't know what to do or who to trust as he attempts to uncover the truth.

## KEY CHARACTERS



**Prince Hamlet**  
The Indecisive Prince



**Skull**  
The talkative skull



**Ophelia**  
Hamlet's sweet kind friend



## THE EPISODE

Hamlet is the indecisive prince who can't decide where to hide when playing a game with Ophelia. Then he meets a talkative skull that finally helps him make the right decision.



## KEY THEME: INDECISION

Being indecisive can mean that you spend too much time thinking about the possible outcomes rather than taking action.



## HIDDEN SHAKESPEARE

Somewhere in this episode there is a portrait of Shakespeare. Can you find it?

**Learning Aim:** To introduce kids to some Shakespearean words and phrases, introduce new vocabulary and accelerate learning with talking points and games.



## LANGUAGE LEARNING GLOSSARY

**Arras:** An arras is a large tapestry that's hung as a decoration

**Battlement:** A wall around the top of a castle with spaces so that people inside the castle can shoot through them

**Graveyard:** A burial ground or cemetery

**Skull:** Bone framework of a person's head



## FAMOUS PHRASES

**"To be found or not to be found":**  
A play on the famous line **"To be or not to be"** when Hamlet is trying to decide if living or dying is best. Here in Two Minute Tales Prince Hamlet is trying to decide if being found or not being found is best.

**"In my heart of hearts":**  
Our innermost feelings. Something we are really sure about.

**"My own flesh and blood":**  
My own family and relations.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Can you think of a time when it was hard to make a decision?
- What are your favourite games to play with friends?
- Do you think Hamlet was brave or silly to hide in the dark with a spooky skull?
- What things make you feel scared?
- Tell me about your favourite part in the show?

## PLAY HIDE-AND-SEEK

Challenge your child to play hide-and-seek with you. Reinforce positional language by providing prompts such as: Hide **under** something. Hide **behind** something. Hide **inside** something, etc.



**Instruction:** Look closely at the the two images -  
There are 7 differences, can you circle them?



## MAZE: HELP HAMLET FIND HIS WAY TO OPHELIA



## COLOURING: COLOUR HAMLET IN THE GRAVEYARD





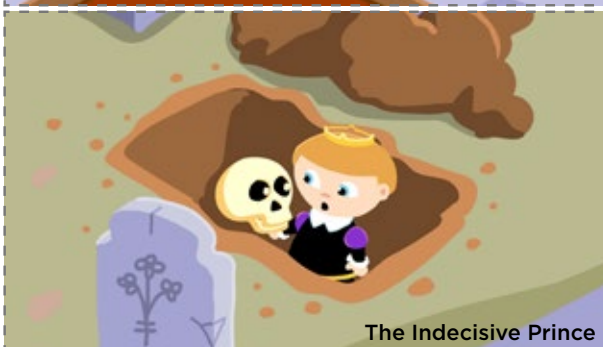
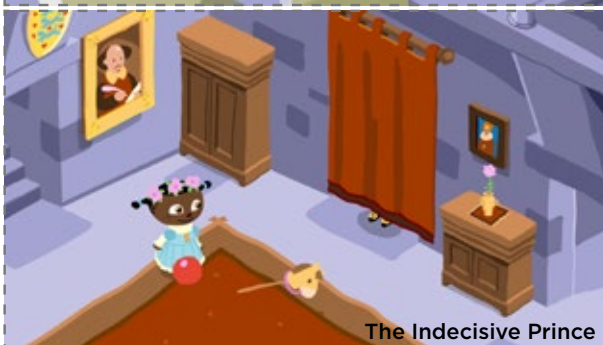
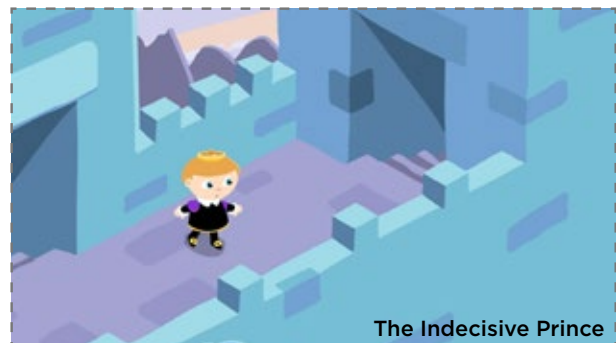
**Learning Aim:** To sequence and retell the story of the Indecisive Prince.

**Learning Purpose:** To deepen the child's understanding of narrative through sequencing the story from beginning to end and to develop confident storytelling using visual prompts.

## STORYTELLING BRIEF

**Materials:** A4 white paper, scissors, printer

After watching the show, sequence the cards in order to retell the story. Let your child think about how the story begins, what happens in the middle and how it ends. Use the cards to retell The Indecisive Prince together, encourage your kid to use the name of the characters and some new words like arras and battlement.



**Learning Aim:** To make stick puppet characters and use them to retell the story.

**Learning Purpose:** By making stick puppets, children will explore **characterisation** and **setting** in a fun way. They can use the scenes of the castle to create their own retelling of the story. This will encourage them to think about scene changes and how they can **change** their voices and expressions to suit the setting.

## ACTIVITY TIME: MAKE YOUR OWN THEATRE, STICK PUPPETS & BACKDROPS

### Instructions:

- 1 - Colour each of the template for the puppets then use scissors to cut them out.
- 2 - Check that your child can name each puppet.
- 3 - Use glue to attach the puppet to a craft stick.
- 4 - Colour the theatre scenes.



Make a puppet theatre and film it. Together with your child use the stick puppets and sets to retell the story of The Indecisive Prince.

# THE INDECISIVE PRINCE

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Activity Time: Make Your Own Theatre & Stick Puppets & Backdrops

