

- (1) The play *Hamlet* and the novel *Don Quixote* were written at almost the same time, in the late 1500's. Hamlet, one of Shakespeare's most famous characters, is a Danish prince.
- (2) Cervantes wrote about a country nobleman, Don Quixote, who sets out to fight the world's injustices.
- (3) Both men also share a belief in the supernatural world: Hamlet speaks with his dead father's ghost, and Don Quixote fights with imaginary giants and wizards.
- (4) Further differences lie in their ambitions.
- (5) With Sancho Panza, his faithful servant, he goes on a journey to try and solve society's many problems.
- (6) He is not even certain that he wants to live, as we learn from his famous statement: "To be or not to be, that is the question."
- (7) Hamlet is an unhappy man who cannot escape his thoughts.
- (8) He returns home from his school abroad to find that his father is dead and his uncle has married his mother.
- (9) However, the reader is never certain whether the characters are really crazy or just pretending.
- (10) Finally, they both strongly want justice and suffer as tragic heroes.

(11) Don Quixote has read so many novels about medieval knights that he starts to believe himself to be one.

(12) Despite these many similarities, these characters also have important differences.

(13) Don Quixote, on the other hand, is a passionate man who acts too quickly without thinking.

(14) In the end, both men die of different reasons.

(15) When his father's ghost tells him that his uncle was the murderer, all Hamlet can think about is how to find out the truth and get justice for his father's death.

(16) He has particular trouble making decisions and taking action.

(17) While Don Quixote tries hard to make the world a better place, Hamlet wants only personal revenge.

(18) First, both men come from noble families, and both have a definite goal in life, and in the course of the stories both Hamlet and Don Quixote appear at times to be insane.

(19) Although the plots of these two works have little in common, their man characters do.

(20) Hamlet becomes a victim of his own inability to make wise decision; Don Quixote becomes a victim of his dying belief.