**Did fourth-grades really understand Hamlet?**

**Child 1:** So in the story, Hamlet is a prince of the king and queen.

**Child 2:** At first he is a very nice person, but when he finds out his father’s killed, he starts getting a little absurd, like crazy, and he just wants to kill everybody that he thinks was a part of his father’s death.

**Child 3:** Well, finds out from the ghost-- the ghost tells Hamlet to murder the king and then Hamlet tries to kill him.

**Narrator:** Who was Marcellus?

**Child 1:** Marcellus is a boy and he has lots of friends like Hamlet, Barnito, and Francisco. Me, Barnito, and Francisco are guards for the castle. And Horatio is another friend, a very good friend of Hamlet.

**Child 4:** Rosencrantz is another friend of Hamlet's, like Guildenstern. They are excellent friends and they get along.

**Narrator:** And what do they do in the play?

**Child 4:** Rosencrantz goes to the castle because the king and the queen sent her to talk with Hamlet.

**Child 5:** Hamlet kills Ophelia’s father and then she goes crazy.

**Child 6:** Hamlet was going to murder the queen, but then I said, “Help! Help!” And then Hamlet thought I was a rat, so then that’s when I died.

**Narrator:** And how did Hamlet feel about it?

**Child 6:** She took me as the king, she felt pretty bad.

**Child 1:** So, Ophelia and Laertes don’t get along with Hamlet that much, especially Laertes.

**Child 7:** Then my dad, he dies and I have to get my revenge on Hamlet because he’s the one who killed my father and I don’t forgive him.

**Child 8:** Literally, at the end, Laertes and Hamlet have this sword fight and the king thinks Hamlet’s mad or something, so he tried to kill him with a poison drink.

**Child 1:** So, they try to settle it out by having a sword fight, but it didn’t turn out that good.

**Child 8:** When Laertes was fighting with Hamlet, Laertes had the poison sword, so if Laertes hit Hamlet, that’s how Hamlet would die too. Mostly near the end, a lot of people start drinking the poison cup.

**Narrator:** And who get killed though?

**Child 3:**  The king, the queen, Polonius, Ophelia, Laertes, and Hamlet.

**Narrator:** That’s a lot of people. You don’t get killed though, do you?

**Child 3:** No.

**Narrator:** And were you happy about that?

**Child 3:** Yeah.