Renaissance Man
Experiencing Shakespeare

Vocabulary

A Renaissance Man is a person with many talents or areas of knowledge (referring to the renaissance time period).

An acronym is an abbreviation formed from the initial components in a phrase or a word.

A libertine is a person, especially a man, who behaves without moral principles or a sense of responsibility.

Purgatory is a place or state of suffering inhabited by the souls of sinners who are expiating their sins before going to heaven.

Impugn means to dispute the truth, validity, or honesty of (a statement or motive); call into question.

Answer the following questions about the movie.

1. What is the main character’s full name and what is his profession?

2. Describe the main character’s values based on his opinion of his daughter’s academic interests.

3. What is the main character supposed to accomplish with his students?

4. An allusion will be made to Fort McClane’s slogan later in the movie. What is that slogan?

5. Based on their stories, what did all of the Double D’s have in common?
6. Which Double D’s story did you most identify with? Why? (Double D’s: Donnie Benitez, Miranda Myers, Jamaal Montgomery, Tommy Lee Haywood, Jackson Leroy, Roosevelt Hobbs, Brian Davis Jr., or Melvin Melvin)

7. Why are the students interested in Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*?

8. What do you learn about plot of *Hamlet* in this first scene?

9. What three poetic devices does Rago define for his students? Give the word and the definition.
   
   a. Simile – _____________________________________________________________
      
      • EXAMPLE: You see a pretty girl in a bar. You go to her like _____________________________.
   
   b. Metaphor – _____________________________________________________________
      
      • EXAMPLE: All men are ___________________.
   
   c. Oxymoron – _____________________________________________________________
      
      • EXAMPLE: Military ___________________, dark ___________________,
        thunderous ___________________, girly ___________________, and parting is such sweet ___________________.

10. Who are the characters in *Hamlet*?

   **Hamlet** - _____________________________________________________________

   **Horatio** - _____________________________________________________________

   **Ophelia** - _____________________________________________________________

   **Polonius** - _____________________________________________________________

   **Laertes** - _____________________________________________________________

   **Ghost** - _____________________________________________________________

   **King Claudius** - _______________________________________________________

   **Queen Gertrude** - _____________________________________________________
11. What does Hamlet’s father tell him, according to the movie?

12. When Hamlet confronts his mother about the part she played in his father’s death, what does she realize?

13. In order to make the play more interesting to read, Bill tells the DD’s that they need to do what when reading it out loud and how does he show them how to do it?

14. Why does Rago climb and repel from the Victory Tower, and what does he learn from the entire experience?

15. Why didn’t Leroy play football in college? Why does he join the military instead of going to college?

16. Bill asks if Ophelia is right, is Hamlet crazy? What is their answer?

17. What happens to Hobbs, and why does this happen?

18. Who said, “The choices we make dictate the life we lead”? To whom did this apply?

19. What does Rago throw away and why?

20. What two things does Rago buy for his daughter, and how can he afford these gifts?
21. What Shakespearean play does Rago take his students to see, and why did he do this?

22. What does Benitez buy at the theater?

23. Rago tests the D.D.’s orally. What would be the advantages and disadvantages of this type of testing?

24. Where does Rago say victory begins?

25. Why was it important for the students to take a Final Exam for Rago’s course?

26. Aside from Hobbs, what other student does Rago attempt to give special help to and why?

27. What does Benitez quote to Drill Sergeant Cass, and where did he learn this? Why was his recitation significant?

28. What two major characters are still alive at the end of Hamlet, and why is this significant to Melvin?

29. What significant event occurs during the graduation ceremonies?

30. How can the term “Renaissance Man” be applied to Bill by the end of the movie? Explain.