

LONDON CALLING

-Student Pages-

Dear Students,

We are really looking forward to you coming to our new show, “London Calling.” This preparation material will help you understand what is going on in the show and who everyone in the play is. Then you can just sit back, relax, and enjoy the performance.



Hi, I'm Oliver. There are two words you will hear a lot in our play. Hamlet and Shakespeare. Hamlet is a character from a famous play; it is also the name of the play.

A guy called Shakespeare wrote the play. You might have heard of him. The play is very long, and there are lots of words in it, but it is a great story.

But don't worry, our play is not so long and not so wordy, but it is definitely a great story.

STORY

Class 8F from Rathsrotten High-school are going to London. They want to perform Hamlet in the ***National Shakespeare Competition***. They travel to the Globe Theatre with their teacher, Mr. Keen. He is nice, but not very well-organised.

At the same time, four criminals break into the ***Royal Artifacts Museum in London***. They steal a sword, a tiara and a goblet, worth 10 million pounds. In the chaos at ***Trafalgar Square***, the bags of the criminals get mixed up with the bags of the school kids. But the real problem is much worse. The young actors have not just lost their bags but also their Hamlet and need to find a new one before they can go on stage.

CHARACTERS

There are many characters in this show. It might be a bit confusing at first, but that's OK. There are 11 main characters (Hauptrollen) and a few minor roles (Nebenrollen)

The SCHOOL KIDS and their TEACHER

Mr. Keen: Mr. Keen is a young teacher who likes Shakespeare. It is his idea to enter into the Shakespeare Competition. His class likes him. The school principal does not. He is usually running late or has forgotten something.



Sam: Sam's hobbies are annoying people and taking things from them. Sometimes he gives them back. Sometimes he doesn't. Some people call that stealing. He knows everyone in his class is better than him. Even his best friend, Oliver. Sam has not found what he is good at yet. Except stealing.



Svetlana: Svetlana and Sam do not like each other. He calls her "sweaty llama," and she calls him "baby thief." Actually, Svetlana does not really like anyone. She thinks Oliver is weird but interesting. She could be good at school, but she doesn't want to be...yet.



Belle: Belle is good at everything except being patient (geduldig sein). She is good at school, good at sports; she is organised and on time. She is also good at acting and plays two roles (Rollen oder Figuren) in the school theatre show. She is bad at being nice to people who are not as good as her. She thinks her brother Oliver is weird.

Oliver: Oliver is Belle's twin brother. He and Belle are very different. Oliver likes to say strange things. He finds his sister confusing. He and Sam have been friends since kindergarten. But Oliver is not sure that he likes Sam any more.

Daphne: Daphne tries to be good at everything. She is the stage manager and organiser of the school theatre show. She doesn't really have any friends. Everyone finds her annoying, except Cam. She would like to play a role in Hamlet, but no one else wants her to. Including Mr. Keen.



Cam: Cam is short for Cameron. Cam's job is doing the costumes and props (Requisiten). Which is difficult because he often forgets things. Cam does not want to be in the play. He gets stage fright (Lampenfieber). He is a nice guy and thinks he is friends with everyone.

There are also four criminals – **The London Four** - who break into the Royal Artefacts Museum. "John-O", "Stella-V", "Darling" and "N". Darling's real name is Alfred Fitzsimmons. Nobody knows what "N's" real name is. Is it Nina, Natasha, Natalie? Some say that the "N" stands for "Nobody". You will learn more about them in the show.

Minor roles: A few police officers and Tomithy – a well-dressed street scam-artist.



Oliver says:

Hamlet also means small town or village in English. But you don't really need to know this. A lot of English speaking people don't know this either.

SCENE TWO – THE BUS ROLL CALL

Enter Mr.Keen. Stage Right with clip board.

A few moments later, enter Svetlana. Stage Right.

Mr Keen: Good Morning Svetlana, early bird gets the worm...

Svetlana: Good Morning, Mr Keen

Mr Keen: ready to go then?!

Svetlana: Yes, Mr Keen.

Mr Keen: Could I have your... umm.... Do you have your, um form? Enter Belle.

Svetlana: No, Mr Keen. She enters the bus.

Mr Keen: Well that's umm... that's umm... just fine then....

Belle: Hello Mr. Keen, here is a map of London, here is my bag and here is my form. Oh, and here is Oliver's form, he left it on the kitchen table, of course. My brother is so stupid.

M. Keen: Thank-you Isabelle... I think Enter Daphne Stage Right

Daphne: Hi, Mr. Keen.

Keen: Ah hellooo Daphne...

Daphne: Can I sit next to you?

Mr. Keen: No.

Daphne: Good to know. Exit stage left.

Cam: enter Cam. Hey Mr Keen, sorry I, um my little brother... and then we... and the car... and I thought...

Keen: OK, Cam, just get on the bus.

Cam: Here's my form. Cam sneezes and gets onto the bus.

Keen: Thanks... erghhgggh

Cam: Oh no, Mr Keen, I forgot the bag with the props!

Keen: Well, run Cam, run! Cam exit stage right

Enter Oliver and Sam stage left.

Oliver: Hi, Mr Keen, have you ever seen an alien?

Sam: Hey Mr Keen!

Mr Keen: Ah, Samuel. Got your form? No, I don't think I have Oliver...

Sam: Right here Mr. Keen

Mr. Keen: It's not signed, Samuel.

Sam: Well, my mum was going to sign it, but then she didn't.

Keen: Right, get on the bus, you two. Listen, will be in London in about six hours. Amanda is not here but...

Sam: Is Amanda dead, sir?

Oliver: Woah, what happened?

Mr. Keen: Amanda is not dead, Sam. Her grandma however is. She will join us in London at the theatre.

Oliver: The grandma?

Keen: No Oliver, Amanda. So, kids, the rules of our trip:

Rule Number One: Do what Mr. Keen says, Rule Number two: Still do what Mr. Keen says and Sam, rule number three?

Sam: Ahh, take a chill pill Mr Keen.

Mr Keen: Important! Watch out for your bags. Money was stolen from my wallet yesterday during a sports lesson. And there are lots of pickpockets and other thieves in London, Samuel, are you listening? Closes the bus door.

Sam: Hey, What did I do?

Oliver: Mr. Keen, can we listen to music?

Mr. Keen: Yes please! Turns on radio London here we come!

QUESTIONS TO SCENE TWO

After you have done the exercise with scene two, you can answer these questions.

1. What are rules number one, two and three?.....
.....
2. Who has died?.....
3. Where are they going?
4. How long will it take them to get there?.....
5. How many characters are in this scene and what are all their names?.....
.....
.....
6. What got stolen? Who do you think has stolen it?.....
7. Where is Amanda planning on meeting them?
8. Who had their form or permission slip signed?.....
9. What did Cam forget?.....
10. Which characters do you find most interesting and why?.....
.....
.....



Oliver says:

Who was Shakespeare? Who was Hamlet?
Shakespeare was a playwright (a play writer). He wrote a lot of plays (Theaterstücke). He died over 400 years ago. His plays are still being performed today. Hamlet is one of his most famous plays. Hamlet was a young prince. His uncle killed his father (the King). Then married Hamlet's mother (the Queen). Hamlet tried to kill his uncle to revenge his father but killed his girlfriend's dad instead. By accident. Whoops. After that, things get even more complicated.. and in the end, everyone is dead. Except for Hamlet's best friend, Horatio, who lives to tell the story.

English	German
rehearsal	
script	
props	
stage-door	
dressing-room	
	Taschendieb
	Wettkampf
practice	
permission slip / form	Einverständniserklärung
pigeons	
	dame
trustworthy	
goblet	
cheating	
fair	
guilty	
my lines (in this case)	Mein Text (in diesem Kontext)
perform	spielen
wallet	
rule number one	
to remind someone of something	
	ein Theaterstück
complain	
sword	
swapped / switched	
stealing/stole/ have stolen	
detention	nachsitzen
fault	Schuld



Oliver says:
 In Germany, before a theatre performance, you say Toi Toi Toi.
 In English, you say "break a leg!" There are a lot of
superstitions in theatre. Maybe this is because theatres used
 to be dangerous places...

PAIR EXERCISE – Translation

How could you say/write these English sentences in German? Be careful not to translate everything directly. Say the German out loud. Ask yourself if you would really say it like that. Is there a difference in how you say it and how you would write it?

1. Learn your lines.

2. We have arrived safe and sound.

.....

3. You can still trust me.

4. I don't think you're crazy.

5. I need to talk to you altogether

.....

6. Oliver, get off your phone!

.....

7. But I know all the words!

.....

8. I don't know who to choose yet.

.....

9. I think we all know who it's going to be.

.....

10. Mr. Keen has detention!

11. It's not my fault that I'm smart.

.....

Hamlet

Watch this short video and answer the quiz below.

<https://youtu.be/cXt6dtkRtLs?si=fingMyF5p5D7ykU6>

Quiz:

1. What colour was Hamlet's shirt in the video?
 - a) red
 - b) black
 - c) yellow
 - d) blue
2. Why is Hamlet sad?
 - a) His father is dead
 - b) He was scared by a ghost
 - c) He was not allowed to play with Horatio
 - d) His girlfriend does not like him
3. What is the name of Hamlet's friend?
 - a) Laudatio
 - b) Horatia
 - c) Horatio
 - d) Osric
4. What does the ghost tell Hamlet to do?
 - e) Go back to university
 - f) Keep calm and carry on
 - g) Be nice to his girlfriend Ophelia
 - h) Revenge his death
5. What does Hamlet's uncle do after watching Hamlet's play?
 - a) He loves Hamlet's play
 - b) He makes Hamlet the king
 - c) He looks very guilty and runs away
 - d) He dances a tango with the queen
6. What happens at the end of "Hamlet"?
 - a) Hamlet has a party
 - b) Hamlet has a sword fight and dies
 - c) Hamlet gets married to Ophelia
 - d) Hamlet becomes the king



Oliver says:

See you in the theatre! And never forget...

The show must go on!