**Flocabulary: Hamlet - worksheet – “To Be Or Not”**


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To be or not to be: Somehow it just came to me,
In a question, "What's Life? What's Death?
If there's no one left?" So I ask you, to be or not...

Half a million children take flight from the head:
   46 chromosomes, sperm meets egg.
Brings forth a being with 9 months achievement.
Who am I, Shakespeare, to question the reason?
Free speech the medium, the question is freedom.
The free will to be has claimed many a genius.
Prophecy to be was the power of the being,
Made a born leader out of labelling 'em meagre.
Anccestors are in the spot where they be at,
Down the pipeline, a thousand lifetimes.
Fought through the fight so the child could write rhymes,
   And take my life or make it right,
Shiggy-shine through the next generations like,
   To be the adjacent light, the day's life.
Not to be would be a crying shame of a life,
Mockery slicing through the vein of the plight.

To be or not to be: Somehow it just came to me,
In a question, "What's Life? What's Death?
If there's no one left?" So I ask you, to be or not...

Aiyo, to be or not? I almost forgot what it meant to be hot,
So let's take it from the top.
All I want is to be consistent, not to be resistant,
To be on the chart, not to be missing.
To be where I'm at and not be listening
Appendix J

Is to be an emcee but not to be spitting it.
And I don’t care what’s left to be written,
If I keep making bad decisions might as well not be living.
Who knows what’s to be expected?
Y’all know that life can get hectic; I constantly fight depression.
To be incredible, to be unforgettable,
It’s not to be lame, it’s not to be forgettable.
To be living is not to be dead,
To be high on life is simply not to be a crack head.
To be Shakespeare is not to be illiterate,
To be hip-hop, to be or not, come on...

Responding to texts

1. In the first four lines of the first verse, what do you think the author is saying about Shakespeare’s question’ “To be or not to be?”

2. “The free will to be has claimed many a genius” - What is the author referring to in this line?

3. Can you think of any examples?

4. Read the following slice of text from the rap

Fought through the fight so the child could write rhymes,
and take my life or make it right...
not to be would be a crying shame of a life,
Mockery slicing through the vein of the plight.

a) Who is the author suggesting “fought through the fight”?

b) Who is suicide a mockery to, according to the author?
5. What do you think the rap conveys about the authors attitudes, values and beliefs towards life and suicide? Justify your response using examples from the text to support your opinion.

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6. In groups of two or three, construct your own rap (2-3 short verses) to be performed to your classmates in response to one of the following takes on the “To be or not to be?” question,

“To GO or not to GO...?”
   a) To university/TAFE after school - your parents are asking you to make a decision
   b) On a date with a boy/girl you have liked but has just broken up with long term partner
   c) To sneak out to a party when you have been told by your parents you're not allowed to go