

## Practice Quick Write/Essay Prompts:

1. Compare the ways in which *The Queen* and *Ransom* highlight the futility of revenge.
2. Compare how perceptions of leadership are challenged in *The Queen* and *Ransom*.
3. Compare the ways in which characters in *The Queen* and *Ransom* experience changes in their identity.
4. Compare how individual stories of struggle in *The Queen* and *Ransom* show humanity rather than heroism.

5. Compare *The Queen* and *Ransom*, using the following quotations as the basis of your response:

*“ELIZABETH: Well, you are my tenth Prime Minister, Mr Blair. I’d like to think there weren’t too many surprises left.”*  
*(The Queen)*

*“You have done this because you are still thinking in the old way. I told you, I tried to tell you, that my vision was of something new. Now, this time listen”* *(Ransom)*

6. Compare *The Queen* and *Ransom*, using the following quotations as the basis of your response:

*“Words are powerful. They too can be the agents of what is new, of what is conceivable and can be thought and let loose upon the world”* *(Ransom)*

*“ELIZABETH: I’ve never been hated like that before.”* *(The Queen)*

## Analysing Prompt 5:

5. Compare *The Queen* and *Ransom*, using the following quotations as the basis of your response:

*“ELIZABETH: Well, you are my tenth Prime Minister, Mr Blair. I’d like to think there weren’t too many surprises left.”*  
*(The Queen)*

*“You have done this because you are still thinking in the old way. I told you, I tried to tell you, that my vision was of something new. Now, this time listen”* *(Ransom)*

### **Approach:**

This type of question asks you to look at both quotations and determine what each means in terms of the text as well as in a broader context.

You also need to identify connections between the two quotations.

### **Quotations in terms of the texts**

The first quote is Queen Elizabeth explaining to her new Prime Minister, Tony Blair, how many leaders she has worked with BEFORE him and the impression is many will come after. She has seen and heard many things and would be hard pressed to be surprised by anything.

In the second quote Priam urges his subjects (including his sons) to listen to what he has expressed to them as he is exasperated at being presented with the royal chariot and horse, when he asked for a simple mule cart.

**Similarities:**

Both Elizabeth and Priam urge their followers to listen to what they truly have to say. Both Elizabeth and Priam are on personal journeys of self-discovery throughout the text.

In both texts powerful events from the past govern the current population and their attitudes and dominate the political and cultural landscape

Queen Elizabeth, Tony Blair and Priam demonstrate the power of individual choice and the concept that destiny is in the control of individuals

Queen Elizabeth, Tony Blair and Priam share a similar attitude towards propriety and what is „right“ in regards to society expectations and challenging said expectations.

**Differences:**

The change Blair alludes to has a lasting impact, while Priam's triumph is temporary and his city of Troy is eventually to be destroyed

Blair uses calm, inclusive and conciliatory language, whereas Priam is autocratic and thus admonishes his subjects for not following his vision

Priam believes in destiny, but also makes his own decisions based on the concept of chance, a concept brought to him in a dream vision from the gods' messenger Iris. Whilst Queen Elizabeth believes in controlling one's own fate.