

Name: _____

Date: _____

Period: _____

Hamlet: Act 1 Study Guide

Mrs. Howard

Act 1, scene 1:

1. What exposition is provided in this scene? Include an explanation of the quarrel with Norway.
2. What atmosphere is created by this scene? How?
3. Why has Horatio been asked to join the soldiers in the night watch? What has he decided to do?

Act 1, scene 2:

1. How does Claudius react to the threat of war with Norway?
2. Why has Laertes asked to speak to the King?

3. Why is Hamlet upset?
4. Describe Claudius' personality and attitude.
5. What does the King want Hamlet to do?
6. How does Hamlet describe his father?
7. What are Hamlet's feelings about his mother and his new father Claudius?
8. What does the Ghost of Old Hamlet wear?

Act 1, scene 3:

1. How are Laertes and Ophelia related?

2. Explain the reasons that Laertes and Polonius give Ophelia to convince her not to trust Hamlet's love.
3. What advice does Polonius give to Laertes before he leaves for school?

Act 1, scene 4:

1. How does Hamlet feel that Claudius is diminishing Denmark's reputation abroad?
2. Why do Hamlet's friends fear for him?
3. Marcellus states, "Something is rotten in the state of Denmark." What might this quote signify?

Act 1, scene 5:

1. How did Hamlet's father die? What does Old Hamlet ask his son to do?

2. After speaking with the Ghost, what does Hamlet insist that Horatio and Macellus NOT do?
3. What does Hamlet mean by “*antic disposition*”?
4. Identify the speaker. “*The time is out of joint. O cursed sprite that ever I was born to set right!*”