

Name: _____

Date: _____

Period: _____

Hamlet: Act 2 Study Guide

Mrs. Howard

Act 2, scene 1:

1. Why does Polonius send Reynaldo to Paris?
2. Why does Polonius tell Reynaldo to tarnish Laertes reputation?
3. How has Hamlet shocked Ophelia?
4. What is Polonius' explanation for Hamlet's madness?

Act 2, scene 2:

1. Who are Rosencrantz and Guildenstern?
2. What do the ambassadors, recently returned from Norway, tell Claudius?
Why has Fortinbras changed his plan to attack Denmark?

3. How does Claudius respond to the request made to him by the King of Norway about safe passage for Fortinbras?
4. Complete the quotation from Polonius: “_____ *is the soul of wit.*”
5. How does Polonius intend to confirm his theory about the cause of Hamlet’s madness?
6. Identify the speaker: “*Though this be madness, yet there is method in ’t.*”
7. What does Hamlet suspect about Rosencrantz’ and Guildenstern’s intervention, which is confirmed by Guildenstern?
8. “*The earth, seems to me a sterile promontory.*” What does this line tell us about Hamlet?
9. Complete the quotation: “*What a piece of work is _____!*”

10. Complete the quotation using two words: "*I am mad north-north-west. When the wind is southerly, I know a _____ from a _____.*"
11. The speech recited by the player is from a story about the fall of which city?
12. What play does Hamlet ask the actors to perform the day after their arrival?
13. What special request does Hamlet make for the performance by the players?
14. In his final soliloquy of the Act, why does Hamlet criticize himself?
15. Complete the quotation from Hamlet: "*The play's the thing Wherein I'll catch the _____.*"