

Hamlet

Act III Study Guide

Answer the questions in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

Scene 1

1. What instruction is Ophelia given at the beginning of this scene? (48-51)
2. Copy the line where we see Claudius admit his guilt.
3. Explain Polonius' statement: "'Tis too much proved), that with devotion's visage and pious action we do sugar o'er the devil himself." (52-55)
4. Explain King Claudius' metaphor in lines 56-62. What important fact does he reveal to the audience? Why is it in an "aside?"
5. List and explain 3 examples of figurative language from Hamlet's "To be or not to be" speech. (64-96)
6. List and explain 2 examples of figurative language from Ophelia's speech in lines 163-175.
7. What does the king decide to do with Hamlet in lines 176-189? What is his fear?
8. What does Polonius plan to do in lines 190-201?

Scene 2

9. What does Hamlet instruct Horatio to do before the play? (79-92)
10. Quote and explain 2 examples of Hamlet's rudeness during the play. (98-290)
11. Explain Hamlet's "pipe" metaphor in lines 374-402.
12. Quote and explain 3 examples of figurative language in lines 419-432.
13. How is Hamlet's soliloquy at the end of scene 2 different from others? 419-432

Scene 3

14. Read the king's soliloquy (40-76) Is he sorry he killed his brother? What would he have done in order to repent? Explain his prayer.
15. Why won't Hamlet kill Claudius and get revenge in this scene? (77-101)
16. Explain the irony in this scene. Focus on lines 102-103

Scene 4

17. Explain 2 of the 4 allusion in lines 63-81.
18. Quote and explain 2 examples of figurative language in lines 63-81.
19. Why does the ghost reappear? (126-131)
20. What 2 things does hamlet command his mother not to do? (178-218)
21. Lines 225-232 provide some foreshadowing. What do you think will happen next?