

Shakespeare's language follows the natural speech patterns of the English language:

iamb = 2 feet OR 2 syllables of
unstressed/ stressed language
meter = the set rhythm

pentameter = 5 iambs

↓
iambic pentameter

Two households, both alike in dignity,

Good pilgrim, you do wrong your hand too much,

ever even
e'er e'en



HAMLET

Allusion: a reference to a famous person, place, or thing

Classical allusion: reference to Greek and Roman Mythology (ex. *"She was another Helen..."*)

Pun: A play on words, sometimes on different senses of the same word and sometimes on the similar sense or sound of different words, usually for humorous effect (ex. *"I didn't want to buy leather shoes, but eventually I was suede."* *swayed*)

Double Entendre: A word or phrase having a double meaning, especially when the second meaning is risqué - sexual in nature. (ex. *the character Charley Bates from Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist, is frequently referred to as "Master Bates."*)

Why isn't Hamlet the new King of Denmark after his father dies?

Thoughts...

-Denmark in this time period is an **elective monarchy**- the eldest son would be elected to the throne by a counsel.

however...

-**Primogeniture** (eldest son automatically takes the crown/ inherits father's wealth) is practiced in Shakespeare's England (**hereditary monarchy**).



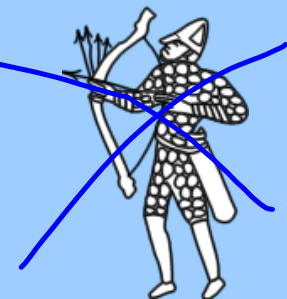
HAMLET

King Fortinbras challenged King Hamlet to a duel. King Hamlet won, thereby acquiring Norwegian territories as per their agreement.



King Hamlet of Denmark

Wins Norwegian territories

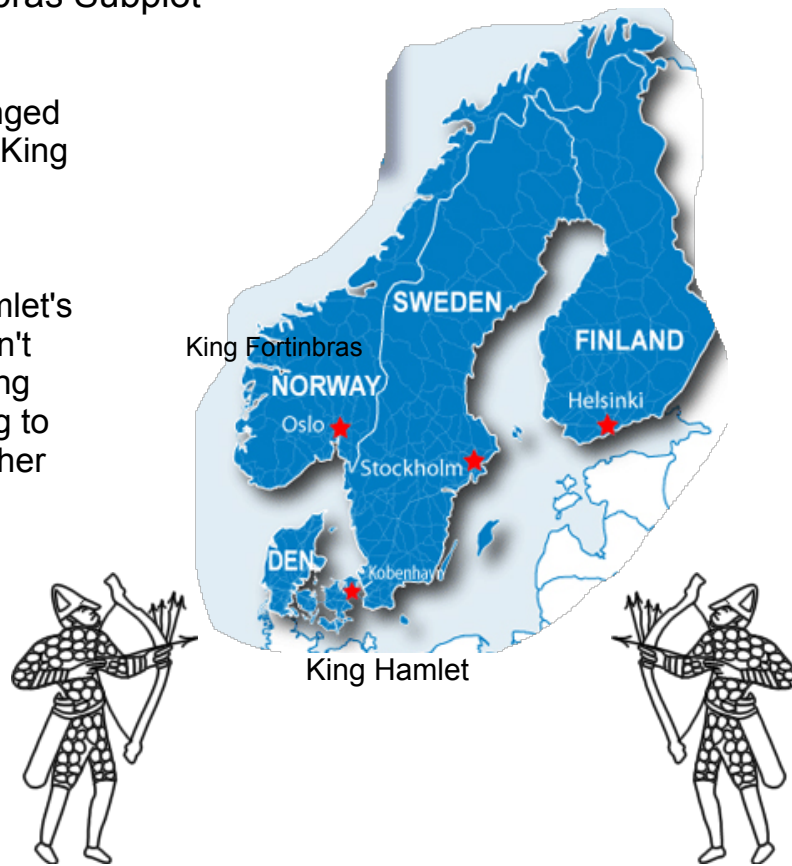


King Fortinbras of Norway

↓
Young Fortinbras wants the lands back → birthright

The Norwegian/ Fortinbras Subplot

King Fortinbras challenged King Hamlet to a duel. King Hamlet won, thereby acquiring Norwegian territories as per their agreement. Since Hamlet's victory, he died (we don't know how yet), so young Fortinbras is attempting to reclaim the land his father lost.





HAMLET

"Who's there?" = first line of play
This is a play of questions...the answers are not always clear.

Act 1, scene 1: Guards keeping watch at Elsinore

Horatio: This bodes some strange eruption our state.

A mote it is to trouble the mind's eye.



Act I scene i

ghost

How is mood established through the use of diction?

- Despite the quiet watch, Francisco describes that he is "sick at heart" (1.i.9)
- "bitter cold" - "Who's there?"

How does Shakespeare create exposition for the audience?

↳ Horatio, a scholar, provides exposition for audience re: Denmark's preparations for war & King Hamlet's duel w/ Fortinbras.

Ghost's Ambiguity

↳ devil in disguise

OR

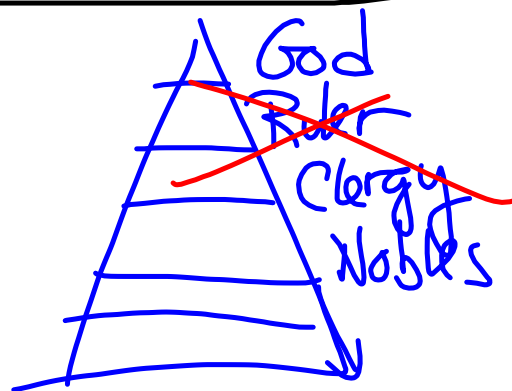
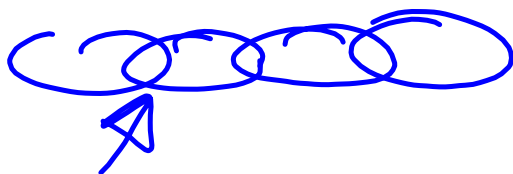
↳ a dearly departed

Literary Terms

Horatio's allusion to Julius Caesar
1. i. 125-136.

(I. i. 9)

Chain of Being





HAMLET

Homework:

1. Hamlet Vocabulary #2
2. Polonius Paraphrase

Act 1, scene 2: Elsinore

Hamlet: A little more than kin and less than kind.

aside

family

pun } Hamlet's wit

Frailty, thy name is woman!

The funeral baked meats did coldly furnish forth the marriage tables.



"I am too much in the sun son"



HAMLET

Homework:

1. Hamlet Vocabulary #2
2. Polonius Paraphrase
3. Act I.i - iii questions

Act 1, scene 2: Elsinore

Hamlet: A little more than kin and less than kind.

family

Fun

Frailty, thy name is woman!

The funeral baked meats did coldly furnish forth the marriage tables.

Primogeniture



Characterize Claudius as a man and as the new King of Denmark:

Act I scene ii

manipulative?

politic

- proactive w/young Fortinbras threat
- seems well-received by Danish subjects
- tries to exhibit decorous behavior

Hamlet's Language:

- puns

Elsinore

Characterize Hamlet: (esp. in soliloquy)

Physical

- "inky cloak"

Emotional

- grieving, bitter

Intellectual

- wordplay → intelligence

Moral

- suicidal, but knows it's a sin to take one's life



HAMLET

"no more than I to Hercules"

classical allusions



"...Hyperion to a satyr."



Hamlet's dad



Claudius- new husband

"I shall not look upon his like again"



HAMLET

Act 1, scene 3: Elsinore

Ophelia:

But good my brother,
Do not, as some ungracious pastors do,
Show me the steep and thorny way to heaven,
Whiles like a puffed and reckless libertine,
Himself the primrose path of dalliance treads
And recks not his own rede.

- inequity between men & women
- double standard
- tells brother to take his own advice

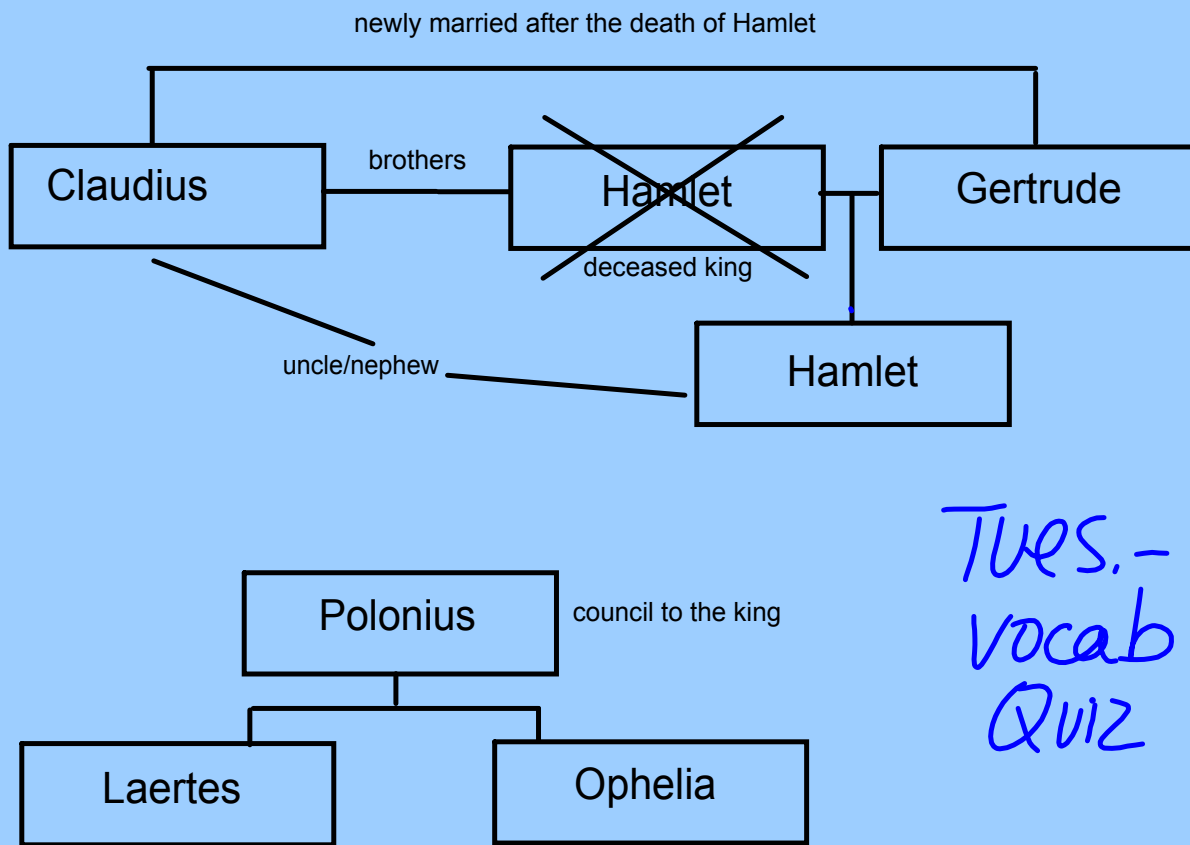


Painting by William Gorman Wills



HAMLET

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS



TUES. -
vocab
QUIZ

Act I scene iii

Hamlet, as Prince of Denmark, must put his country before matters of love.

Laertes' Advice to Ophelia:

- Don't lose your "chaste treasure" to someone who may not be able to have a relationship with you/marry you.
- "Best safety lies in fear"
- "Virtue itself 'scapes not calamitous strokes"

Polonius' Advice to Laertes:

(How does Polonius' advice characterize him?)

Act I scene iii

Polonius' Advice to Ophelia:

(How does Polonius' advice characterize him?)

Hamlet's vows are "springes to catch woodcocks"

"Do not believe his vows because they are brokers"

Laertes' Advice

Polonius' Advice



What does this say
about Ophelia's role in
her society?



HAMLET

Polonius Advice to Laertes Hamlet Act 1.3, 60-86	Translation
Lines 65-66 Give thy thoughts no tongue, Nor any unproportioned thought his act.	Think before you speak or act.
Line 67 Be thou familiar, but by no means vulgar.	Choose your friends wisely.
Lines 68-71 Those friends thou hast, and their adoption tried, Grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel; But do not dull thy palm with entertainment Of each new-hatched, unfledged courage.	Hold your friends close; don't make new friends with every spirited youngster
Lines 71-73 Beware Of entrance to a quarrel , but, being in, Bear 't that the opposed may beware of thee.	Don't get into fights, but if you do, <u>win</u> .



HAMLET

<p>Line 74 Give every man thy ear, but few thy voice.</p>	<p>Listen to everyone but don't speak to everyone</p>
<p>Line 75 Take each man's <u>censure</u>, but reserve thy judgment.</p>	<p>Listen to criticism, but make your own judgments</p>
<p>Lines 76-80 Costly thy habit as thy purse can buy, But not expressd in fancy; rich, not gaudy; For the <u>apparel</u> oft proclaims the man, And they in France of the best rank and station Are of a most select and generous chief in that.</p>	<p>Wear stylish, tasteful clothes, because you are judged on your appearance as they know in France.</p>
<p>Lines 81-83 Neither a borrower nor a lender be; For loan oft loses both itself and friend, And borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry.</p>	<p>Don't borrow or lend money because you'll lose it and friendship + it will ruin you financially</p>
<p>Lines 84-86 This above all: to thine own self be true, And it must follow, as the night the day, Thou canst not then be false to any man.</p>	<p>Be true to yourself and then you won't be false/fake to others.</p>



HAMLET

Tues → Vocab Quiz #2

Act 1, scene 4: outside the castle

Marcellus: Something is rotten in the state of Denmark.



Hamlet and the Ghost (1789) by Henry Fuseli



Drawing by William Blake, 1806

Act I scene iv

More Ghostly Fears:

- Scene shows ambiguous feelings about the supernatural:
- Will the ghost tempt Hamlet to his death/doom?

Marcellus says, "Something is rotten in the state of Denmark" (100).

***Look for imagery pertaining to decay in the play!!



HAMLET

Act 1, scene 5: outside the castle

Ghost: The serpent that did sting thy father's life
Now wears his crown.





HAMLET

Claudius- Biblical allusion to Eden and Claudius is the serpent

Act 1, scene 5: outside the castle

Ghost: 'Tis given out that, sleeping in my orchard,
A serpent stung me; so the whole ear of Denmark
Is by a forged process of my death
Rankly abused. . . .

The serpent that did sting thy father's life
Now wears his crown.

Cain and Abel





HAMLET

What Biblical allusions can you find in the following quotes from scene v?

Act 1, scene 5: outside the castle

Ghost: 'Tis given out that, sleeping in my orchard,
A serpent stung me; so the whole ear of Denmark
Is by a forged process of my death
Rankly abused. . . .

snake
in
Garden
of
Eden

Cain and Abel
Hamlet
Claudius

The serpent that did sting thy father's life
Now wears his crown.



Vocab.
Quiz
tomorrow!

Act I scene v

The Ghost's Story:

"Let not the royal bed of Denmark be a couch for damned incest"

"Revenge his foul and most unnatural murder"

"Murder most foul"

Characterizes Claudius:

- "an adulterate beast"

"leave her to heaven"

Characterizes Gertrude:

- "seeming virtuous queen"

How did he die?

- Death by ear poisoning

Something "rotten" in the state of Denmark

Hamlet's Reaction to the Ghost's Story:

Yes, by heaven! / O most pernicious woman! / O villain, villain, smiling damned villain! / My tables- meet it is I set it down / That one may smile and smile and be a villain" (111-115)

↳ "Who's there?"

↳ Appearances can be deceiving.

↳ masks

Act I scene v

Hamlet's "Antic Disposition" "meat"

Why does Hamlet feel the need to don an "antic disposition" at this point? What is his motivation?

- This is the best way to avenge father. . .
- Acting crazily to:

bizarre
behavior

- ↳ make Claudius nervous
- ↳ to get away w/ his revenge (revenge w/ impunity)
- ↳ people will leave him alone

Act I scene v

Hamlet's "Antic Disposition"

He thinks it is a good idea for him to begin acting strangely-purpose?

- People will say he's crazy after he kills King.
- People will avoid him in his quest to discover the truth/seek revenge.
- People will be lulled into a false sense of security around him and divulge info they normally would not.

Sheldon: You said be nice to Penny. I believe offering chocolate to someone falls within the definition of nice.

Leonard: It does. But in my experience, you don't.

Sheldon: There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy.

Leonard: Now that's you, obnoxious and insufferable.

TBBT, "*The Gothowitz Deviation*"



HAMLET

Act 2, scene 2: Meeting with the king



Rosencrantz and Guildenstern

Time has elapsed,
and H.'s actions/
behaviors are bizarre.

— lack identity

- C/G want them to glean what is bothering Hamlet.
 - R/G are asked to be spies
 - quick to do what King tells them
 - obsequious
- interchangeable



Polonius

- "brevity is the soul of wit"

- "your noble son is mad"

- Queen tells Polonius, "More matter with less art"

News from Norway:



HAMLET

Act 2, scene 1: Polonius's quarters



Reynaldo and Polonius



Hamlet and Ophelia

-P wants R to gather information about Laertes in Paris

-find other Danes in Paris, say you know Laertes, lay "slight sullies" on him and see what others say

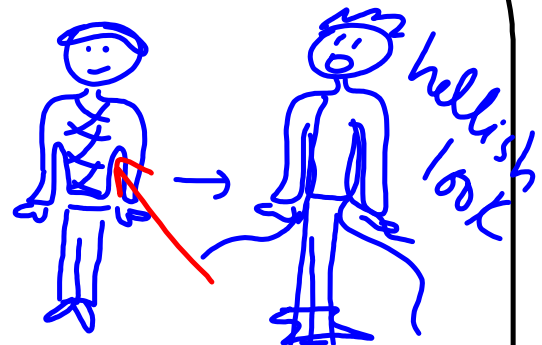
-through "indirection" find "direction out"

-to get the truth, use small lies

decorous

⑦ -ambitious
flattering
distrusting
self-centered

Ophelia characterizes H:



Polonius' assessment:

! sycophant



HAMLET

Homework:

1. Act II Questions
2. Acts I-II Test Tuesday
3. 3/4 IRB Reading Monday

Act 2, scene 2: Meeting with the king



Rosencrantz and Guildenstern

- Jump at the chance to do the King's bidding → spy on Hamlet
- Sycophants
- interchangeable



Polonius

- "brevity is the soul of wit"
- "your noble son is mad"
- Queen tells Polonius, "More matter with less art"

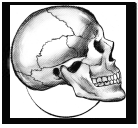
News from Norway:

- YF has been deterred by Uncle Norway & has been given the green light to invade Poland
- Norway requests passage through Denmark for YF



Polonius and Claudius will hide behind the arras (wall hanging/tapestry) in order to spy on Hamlet and Ophelia.

***Notice all the plots/schemes in the play:

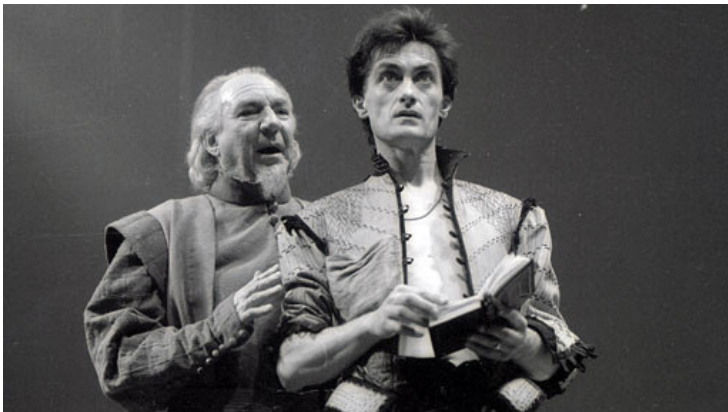


HAMLET

Act 2, scene 2, Hamlet with Polonius

Hamlet: Let her not walk i' th' sun. **Conception** is a blessing, but, as your daughter may **conceive**, friend, look to 't.

Polonius: Though this be madness, yet there is method in 't.



"You are a fishmonger"



Hamlet's Conversation with R&G:



HAMLET

Act 2, scene 2, Hamlet with R & G

Hamlet: I am but mad north-north-west. When the wind is southerly, I know a hawk from a handsaw.





HAMLET

Test Acts I-II
on Tuesday

Act 2, scene 2, Player's speech

Achilles

Pyrrhus



Priam

king of Troy

Queen
Hecuba

Hamlet: * The play's the thing
Wherein I'll catch the conscience of the King.