



# HAMLET

Act 4, scene 1

"There's matter in these sighs, these profound heaves you must translate."  
--Claudius

tell me what is wrong

Gertrude is visibly upset after her meeting w/Hamlet.



Nov 8-7:33 AM



# HAMLET

Act 4, scene 1

"There's matter in these sighs, these profound heaves you must translate."  
--Claudius

Claudius will now ask England to kill Hamlet

↳ his concern for Hamlet has grown significantly



- Death is a cycle
- Food chain involves people from all walks of life - the king & the beggar.

Death is the great equalizer.

Nov 8-7:33 AM



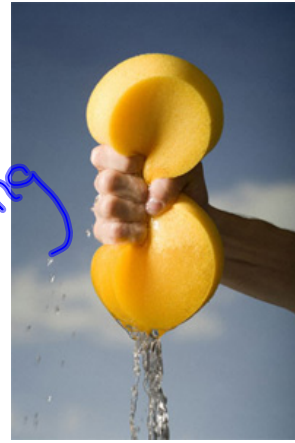
# HAMLET

Act 4, scene 2

"When he needs what you have gleaned, it is but squeezing you, and sponge, you shall be dry again."

--Hamlet to Rosencrantz and Guildenstern

Sycophants who do King's bidding



information for King  
Soak up favor of King until, like a sponge, they will be wringed out and dry again.



Nov 8-7:33 AM



# HAMLET

Act 4, scene 3-4

CLAUDIUS Now Hamlet, where's Polonius?

HAMLET At supper.

CLAUDIUS At supper where?

HAMLET Not where he eats, but where a is eaten. A certain convocation of politic worms are e'en at him. **Your worm is your only emperor for diet: we fat all creatures else to fat us' and we fat ourselves for maggots. Your fat king and your lean beggar is but variable service,** two dishes, but to one table; that's the end.

CLAUDIUS Alas, alas.

HAMLET A man may fish with the worm that hath eat of a king, and 25 eat of the fish that hath fed of that worm.

CLAUDIUS What dost thou mean by this?

HAMLET Nothing but to show you how a king may go a progress through the guts of a beggar.

Claudius hopes that England will kill Hamlet- sends letters to that effect



Fortinbras and his army

We go to gain a little patch of ground/That hath in it no profit but the name.  
-Captain

What is Hamlet's reflection on society here?

Hint: "th'impostume of much wealth and peace"

abscess - sore

sickness of society

Nov 8-7:33 AM

How **all occasions** do inform against me,  
 And **spur my dull revenge!** What is a man  
 If his chief good and market of his time  
 Be but to sleep and feed? A beast, no more.  
 Sure, he that made us with such large discourse,  
 Looking before and after, gave us not  
 That capability and godlike reason  
 To fust in us unused. Now, whether it be  
 Bestial oblivion, or some craven scruple  
 Of thinking too precisely on th' event—  
 A thought which, quartered, hath but one part wisdom  
 And ever three parts coward—I **do not know**  
**Why yet I live to say "This thing's to do,"**  
**Sith I have cause and will and strength and means**  
**To do 't.** Examples gross as earth exhort me.  
 Witness this army of such mass and charge  
 Led by a delicate and tender prince,  
 Whose spirit with divine ambition puffed  
 Makes mouths at the invisible event,  
 Exposing what is mortal and unsure  
 To all that fortune, death, and danger dare,  
 Even for an **eggshell.** Rightly to be great  
 Is not to stir without great argument,  
 But greatly to find quarrel in a straw  
 When honor's at the stake. **How stand I then,**  
**That have a father killed, a mother stained,**  
**Excitements of my reason and my blood,**  
**And let all sleep—while, to my shame, I see**  
**The imminent death of twenty thousand men,**  
**That for a fantasy and trick of fame**  
**Go to their graves like beds, fight for a plot**  
**Whereon the numbers cannot try the cause,**  
**Which is not tomb enough and continent**  
**To hide the slain? Oh, from this time forth,**  
 My thoughts be bloody, or be nothing worth!

Hamlet is spurred on to REVENGE

Fortinbras  
is a FOIL  
for Hamlet.

gem → [diagram] → fail



Jan 2-4:16 PM

January 4, 2013

**Homework:**  
 1. Read "The Language of Flowers"  
 2. Creative Project due 1/17/13

Act 4, scene 5

★(aside) To my **sick soul (as sin's true nature is)**  
 Each toy seems prologue to some great amiss.  
 So full of artless jealousy is guilt,  
 It spills itself in fearing to be spilt.  
 --Gertrude

When sorrows come, they come not single spies,  
 but in battalions.  
 --Claudius

What troubles does he list?  
 Hamlet killed Polonius  
 Hamlet's mad  
 He needs to deal with Hamlet  
 Laertes is storming back to Denmark- ANGRY!!  
 Ophelia is mad  
 People of Denmark are concerned about the  
 rulership and are rowdy- want Laertes to be King

Before you tumbled me, you promised me to wed.  
 --Ophelia (singing)

Ophelia's first song recalls the death of her father. She replies enigmatically to Claudius,  
 declares that the future is uncertain, then sings a song about the loss of virginity.

Ophelia's derangement has been acted out in numerous ways:  
 -dreamily trance-like  
 -sexually obsessed  
 -frantically angry

Nov 8-7:33 AM

--After so much attention to family matters in the play, politics makes a full-blooded appearance. Laertes, leading a 'rabble' of citizens, has swept aside Claudius's bodyguards. The citizens wish to overthrow Claudius's regime and place Laertes on the throne. The Messenger gives a graphic account of the insurrection, comparing the violent approach of the citizens to the ocean's tide rushing over the shore.

CLAUDIUS What is the cause, Laertes,  
That thy rebellion looks so giant-like? -  
Let him go, Gertrude, do not fear our person.  
There's such divinity doth hedge a king → really???

That treason can but peep to what it would,  
Acts little of his will. - Tell me Laertes,  
Why thou art thus incensed. - Let him go Gertrude. -  
Speak man.  
LAERTES Where is my father?  
CLAUDIUS Dead.  
GERTRUDE But not by him.

--Laertes swears to avenge his father's death. → lines 148-154

- Hamlet → revenge for father's death
- Fortinbras → campaigns to win back his father's lost land
- Pyrrhus → slaughters Priam to avenge his own father's death

Jan 2-4:27 PM

--Reactions to Ophelia's behavior:

--Claudius tries to control and direct Laertes' anger. How does Claudius manage to turn Laertes' passion for revenge to his own ends?

CLAUDIUS  
Good Laertes,  
If you desire to know the certainty  
Of your dear father's death, is 't writ in your revenge,  
That, swoopstake, you will draw both friend and foe,  
Winner and loser?

CLAUDIUS  
Laertes, I must commune with your grief,  
Or you deny me right. Go but apart,  
Make choice of whom your wisest friends you will  
And they shall hear and judge 'twixt you and me.  
If by direct or by collateral hand  
They find us touched, we will our kingdom give,  
Our crown, our life, and all that we can ours,  
To you in satisfaction. But if not,  
Be you content to lend your patience to us,  
And we shall jointly labor with your soul  
To give it due content.

Jan 2-4:37 PM

January 4, 2013

**Agenda:**

1. Read Act IV scenes 6-7

In vino veritas

**Homework:**

1. Act IV Questions- to be checked tomorrow!!

truth

**Ophelia-- In Madness Veritas????**

rosemary= remembrance & faithfulness-- Laertes

pansy= thoughts and faithfulness--Laertes

fennel= flattery--Claudius

columbine= male adultery, ingratitude, faithlessness--Claudius

rue= female adultery & everlasting suffering--Gertrude

daisy= innocence (gives to no one)

violet= faithfulness or fidelity (gives to no one)

Jan 2-9:00 AM

Act 4, scene 6

**Deus ex machina:**

a person or thing (as in fiction or drama) that appears or is introduced suddenly and unexpectedly and provides a contrived solution to an apparently insoluble difficulty



↓  
In William Golding's novel Lord of the Flies, just as the protagonist Ralph is about to be killed by the band of "hunters" at the end of the story, a ship appears from nowhere onto the island, drawn by the smoke produced by the wildfire on the island. One of the ship's officers rescues Ralph. He and the rest of the boys are then taken from the island.

Laertes is another CHARACTER FOIL for Hamlet.

"To cut his throat i' th' church." --Laertes

→ Hamlet chooses NOT to kill Claudius when he's "praying" in Church; however, Laertes doesn't care about the consequences of his actions in the afterlife.

**Claudius' Plot:**

- Laertes will choose an "unbated" sword (not blunted= sharp/pointed/deadly)
- Laertes will also poison the tip of his sword.
- Claudius will also poison a chalice of wine.

Nov 8-7:33 AM

Act 4, scene 7

Alas, then she is drowned. --Laertes



Ophelia by John Waterhouse

FOIL vs. Hamlet - not an overthinker  
 - open w/ his rage  
 - internal w/ his ponderings about what to do

In lit., highlights particular traits in a main character.  
 Q highlights the beauty of foil

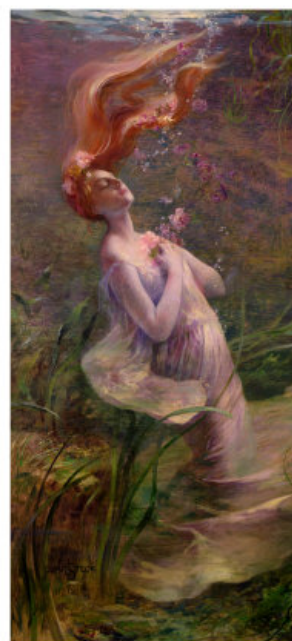
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Act 4, scene 7



Ophelia by John Everett Millais

Alas, then she is drowned. --Laertes



Ophelia Drowning by Paul Albert Steck

Nov 8-7:33 AM

### Who is the real Ophelia?

Ophelia has been interpreted in many ways by critics, directors, and actors as well as by artists. On the one hand, she has been viewed as innocent, naive, inexperienced and passive. Perhaps the most famous image of this Ophelia is a painting done by John Millais in which Ophelia is pictured floating in a stream, her hair spread out, flowers all around. Others have been less sympathetic, emphasizing her familiarity with bawdy terms and her untruthfulness (in Act Three, she tells Hamlet that Polonius is at home when he is really hiding nearby). Feminist critics have emphasized her exploitation by the male world that surrounds her. One of the harshest views of Ophelia comes from the British writer Rebecca West, who describes her in *The Court and the Castle* as "a disreputable young woman." According to West, "No line in the play suggests that she felt either passion or affection for Hamlet." In performance, Ophelia has been played across the spectrum, from virginal and fragile to sexually experienced and knowing. Her character elicits strong responses and interpreting her remains a challenge.

**What is your opinion of Ophelia? Using your available resources, provide your own characterization of Ophelia. Your assertion should take the form of a one-sentence THESIS.**



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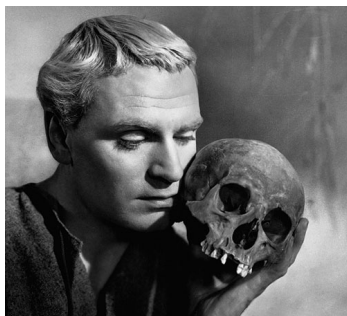
## HAMLET

**Act 5, scene 1**- Look for puns, allusions, and Hamlet's continued observations about death.

**Gravediggers** = provide comic relief before intensity of catastrophe in Act 5 scene 2

Who else has provided comic relief in the play?

- Polonius



Sir Laurence Olivier as Hamlet

Alas, poor Yorick! I knew him, Horatio: a fellow of infinite jest, of most excellent fancy: he hath borne me on his back a thousand times; and now, how abhorred in my imagination it is! my gorge rims at it. Here hung those lips that I have kissed I know not how oft. Where be your gibes now? your gambols? your songs? your flashes of merriment, that were wont to set the table on a roar?

--Hamlet



coat of arms

How old is Hamlet according to this scene?

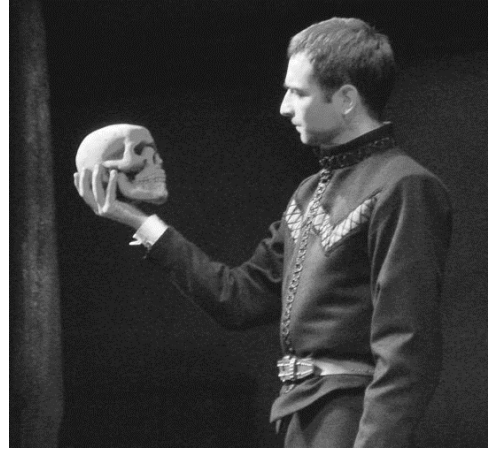
Evidence that Hamlet is 30 years old.

Nov 8-7:33 AM



# HAMLET

Act 5, scene 1



Nov 8-7:33 AM



# HAMLET

Act 5, scene 1



Why is Hamlet holding a skull the iconic image of the play?

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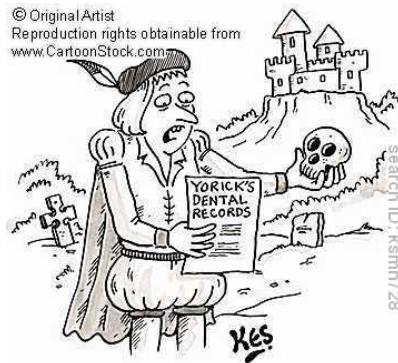
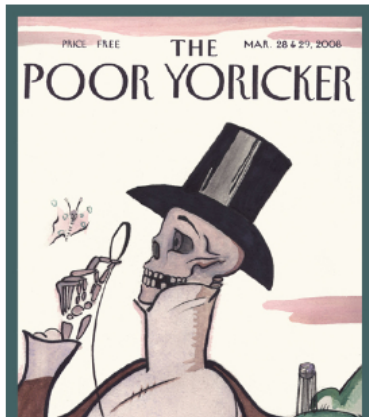
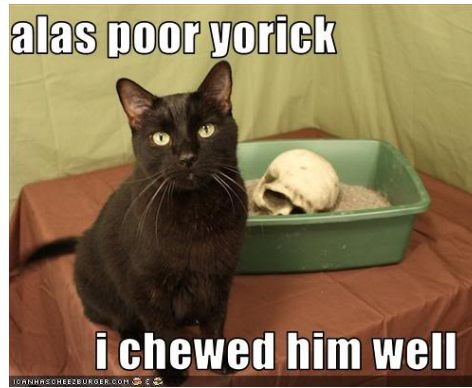
Yorick Humor

Savage Chickens

by Doug Savage




Nov 8-7:33 AM



Nov 8-7:33 AM

Act 5, scene 1



That skull had a tongue in it, and could sing once: how it knaves Jews it to the ground, as if it were Cain's law-bone, that did the first murder!

Has this fellow no feeling of his business, that he sings at grave-making?  
—Hamlet

**COMIC RELIEF**  
Shakespearean fools are usually clever peasants or commoners that use their wits to outdo people of higher social standing. The "groundlings" that frequented the Globe Theater were most likely particularly drawn to these Shakespearean fools or clowns.

**malapropism** = misuse of words  
eg: **argal**; malapropism for "ergo," which is Latin for "therefore."  
(Curley's Wife says the men are playing in a "horseshoe **tenement**.")

Fools typically appear after a particularly emotionally draining scene; in this case, the gravediggers appear after Ophelia's suicide.

**HAMLET'S AGE**

Hamlet: "How long hast thou been gravemaker?"  
Gravedigger: "Of all the days i' th' year, I came to 't that day that our last King Hamlet overcame Fortinbras."  
Hamlet: "How long is that since?"  
Gravedigger: "...It was that very day that young Hamlet was born- he that is mad and sent into England."  
Later in the conversation:  
Gravedigger: "...I have been sexton here, man and boy, for thirty years."  
"Here's a skull now hath lain you i' the earth three-and-twenty years:"

What is Hamlet's response to Yorick's skull? What history did he have with the jester? What does this tell us about his age?

Nov 8-7:33 AM

Hamlet's Age	
Evidence he's 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-gravedigger's discussion of how long he's been working</li> <li>-The Murder of Gonzago: "thirty dozen moons"</li> <li>-Gertrude describes Hamlet as "fat and scant of breath"</li> </ul>
Evidence he's a teenager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-He's in college</li> <li>-Fortinbras is described as a "young and tender prince" and Hamlet and Fortinbras are meant to be contemporaries</li> <li>-Alexander and Caesar were teenagers</li> <li>-He acts like a moody, naive teenager</li> </ul>

Nov 8-7:33 AM

**Act 5 scene 2: READING RECAP**

**--Hamlet tells Horatio:**

Rashly—  
And praised be rashness for it: let us know  
Our indiscretion sometimes serves us well  
When our deep plots do pall, and that should teach us  
**There's a divinity that shapes our ends,  
Rough-hew them how we will—**

(no matter how roughly we ourselves shape them) → "A person proposes, God disposes."

--To what philosophy does Hamlet seem to subscribe at this point? (Make a connection to *Of Mice and Men*.)

ironic in that he typically overthinks his actions

**--Hamlet's chronicles his escape from certain death:**

Why, even in that was heaven ordinant.  
I had my father's signet in my purse,  
Which was the model of that Danish seal.  
Folded the writ up in form of th' other,  
Subscribed it, gave 't th' impression, placed it safely,  
The changeling never known. Now, the next day  
Was our sea fight, and what to this was sequent  
Thou know'st already.

**--On Rosencrantz and Guildenstern:**

Horatio:

So Rosencrantz and Guildenstern go to 't.

Hamlet:

Why, man, they did make love to their employment.  
They are not near my conscience. Their defeat  
Does by their own insinuation grow.  
'Tis dangerous when the baser nature comes  
Between the pass and fell incensèd points  
Of mighty opposites.

sent to die fate



R & G find out they are sentenced to death  
From Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead by Tom Stoppard

Jan 8-11:36 AM

**Hamlet's feelings about Laertes:**

Hamlet:

But I am very sorry, good Horatio,  
That to Laertes I forgot myself,  
For by the image of my cause I see  
The portraiture of his. I'll court his favors.  
But sure the bravery of his grief did put me  
Into a towering passion.



Robin Williams as Osric from  
Kenneth Branagh's Hamlet

**Osric and Hamlet:**

The king, sir, hath laid that in a dozen passes between  
yourself and him, he shall not exceed you three hits. He  
hath laid on twelve for nine, and it would come to  
immediate trial if your lordship would vouchsafe the  
answer.

→ The king bets that Laertes won't beat Hamlet by more than three hits.

**Hamlet on Osric:**

He is a "water-fly." (an insect)

"He did comply, sir, with his dug before he sucked it."



The King has a bet with Laertes--a fairly large bet, six horses against six rapiers and all their gear-- that in a dozen bouts, Laertes won't win by more than twelve to nine. (That makes twenty-one bouts, not a dozen, but either way, the King gets those six rapiers if Hamlet just beats the spread.)

Jan 8-1:59 PM



# HAMLET

Act 5, scene 2



Robin Williams as Osric from Kenneth Branagh's Hamlet



Peter Cushing as Osric from the 1948 film Hamlet

A "fop" was a male who dressed in very fine garments, which usually had a lot of ruffles and plumes. Sometimes fops even wore make-up and adorned themselves with "beauty marks." They often wore powdered wigs. Fops usually prided themselves on being very fashionable, while others laughed at them behind their backs. The British, especially, loved to make fun of these people, many of whom came from France.

Nov 8-7:33 AM



Fashion-mongers= today's metrosexuals



Osric= also provides comic relief

Jan 4-12:27 PM

LORD  
The queen desires you to use some gentle entertainment to Laertes before you fall to play.

--Hamlet's feelings:

HORATIO  
You will lose this wager, my lord.

HAMLET  
I do not think so. Since he went into France, I have been in continual practice. I shall win at the odds. But thou wouldst not think how ill all's here about my heart. But it is no matter.

HORATIO  
Nay, good my lord—

HAMLET  
It is but foolery, but it is such a kind of gain-giving as would perhaps trouble a woman.

HORATIO  
If your mind dislike anything, obey it. I will forestall their repair hither and say you are not fit.

HAMLET  
Not a whit. We defy augury. There's a special providence in the fall of a sparrow. If it be now, 'tis not to come. If it be not to come, it will be now. If it be not now, yet it will come—the readiness is all. Since no man of aught he leaves knows, what is 't to leave betimes? Let be.

→ God controls everything.  
→ What is Hamlet saying here?  
→ How does this musing echo and/or answer an earlier pondering in Act III?

Jan 8-2:10 PM



# HAMLET

## Act 5, scene 2

Hamlet:  
Was't Hamlet wronged Laertes? Never Hamlet.  
If Hamlet from himself be ta'en away,  
And when he's not himself does wrong Laertes,  
Then Hamlet does it not; Hamlet denies it.  
Who does it then? His madness. If't be so,  
Hamlet is of the faction that is wronged.  
His madness is poor Hamlet's enemy.



Hamlet and Laertes duel

Do you agree with Hamlet's assertion about mental illness and culpability???

LAERTES  
I am satisfied in nature,  
Whose motive in this case should stir me most  
To my revenge. But in my terms of honor  
I stand aloof, and will no reconciliation  
Till by some elder masters, of known honor,  
I have a voice and precedent of peace  
To keep my name ungodred. But till that time  
I do receive your offered love like love  
And will not wrong it.

HAMLET  
I embrace it freely,  
And will this brother's wager frankly play.—  
Give us the foils. Come on.

LAERTES  
Come, one for me.

HAMLET  
I'll be your foil, Laertes. In mine ignorance  
Your skill shall, like a star i' th' darkest night,  
Stick fiery off indeed.



Nov 8-7:33 AM

January 10, 2013

**Agenda:**

1. Finish reading scene 2
2. Film Clips

**Homework:**

1. How Many Years Had Hamlet the Dane?
2. Hamlet- Mad or Sane?

**Why do you think Hamlet, not Laertes, succeeds in the first two hits?**

**Gertrude notices that Hamlet is "fat and scant of breath" (313).**

**While "fat" is thought to mean "sweating" here, some say that this is more evidence that Hamlet is indeed 30 years old.**

**Laertes to Hamlet:**

He is justly served.  
It is a poison tempered by himself.  
Exchange forgiveness with me, noble Hamlet.  
Mine and my father's death come not upon thee,  
Nor thine on me.

Jan 10-10:18 AM



If thou didst ever hold me in thy heart,  
Absent thee from felicity awhile  
And in this harsh world draw thy breath in pain  
To tell my story. --Hamlet

Now cracks a noble heart. Good night, sweet prince,  
And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest. --Horatio

**Ambassador from England:**

The sight is dismal,  
And our affairs from England come too late.  
The ears are senseless that should give us hearing  
To tell him his commandment is fulfilled,  
That Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are dead,  
Where should we have our thanks?

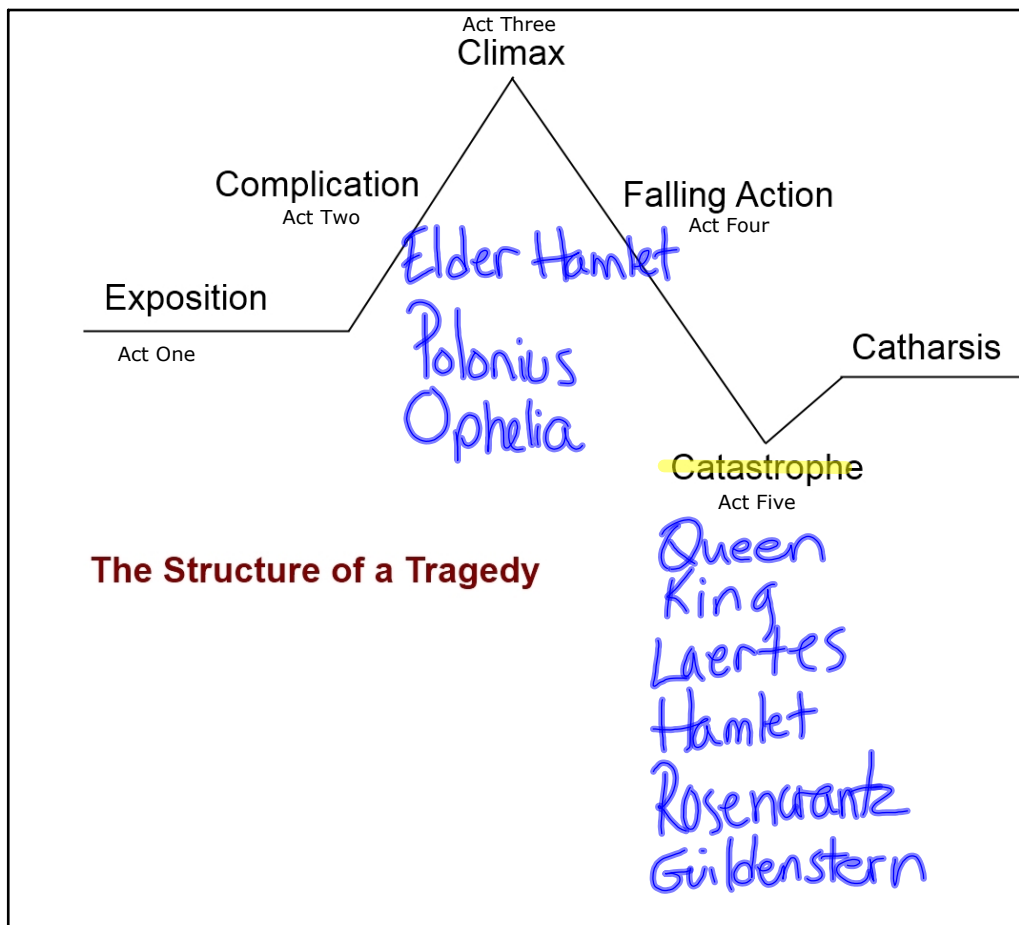
Nov 8-7:33 AM



I have some rights of memory in this kingdom,  
Which now to claim my vantage doth invite me.

--Fortinbras

Nov 8-7:33 AM



Nov 8-7:33 AM

## **The Structure of a Tragedy**

**Introduction** (the exposition of the story in which the characters and setting are introduced)

**Complication** (the rising action, in which conflict is developed)

**Climax** (the highest point of action, often the turning point - takes place in Act 3 of a play)

**Falling Action** (the resulting effects of the climax)

**Catastrophe** (terrible event that occurs due to the climax)

**Catharsis** (the moral/spiritual renewal or welcome relief from tension and anxiety experienced by the audience)

Nov 8-7:33 AM

## **A structural breakdown of Hamlet**

### **Exposition:**

The setting, characters and mood of the play are introduced.

### **Complication:**

The ghost informs Hamlet that Hamlet must avenge his father's murder. Hamlet must figure out a way to avenge his father without getting killed or arrested.

### **Climax:**

Two possibilities: The Mousetrap proves Claudius' guilt in the murder or... Hamlet kills Polonius.

### **Falling Action:**

Claudius takes charge of the action and plots Hamlet's downfall.

### **Catastrophe:**

The main characters are killed.

### **Catharsis:**

Horatio is left to tell Hamlet's story and thus preserve his good name.

Nov 8-7:33 AM



Hamlet Themes: What does the play say about the following ideas?

action/thought	Thinking too much distracts one from taking action.
revenge	Revenge is not always sweet.
love	The bonds of love are strong and complex. We often unintentionally hurt the ones we love.
life	Life is hard and fraught with difficulties.
death	We are all equal in death. What happens after death is unknown.
loyalty	One must protect family honor.
madness	There is a fine line between sanity and insanity.
friendship	True, loyal friends are hard to find. "Those friends thou hast and their adoption tried/Grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel."
truth	It is impossible to be certain about anything.
conscience	"...Conscience does make cowards of us all." Obey your conscience.

Nov 8-7:33 AM