

The "To Be or Not to Be" Speech

HAMLET:

To be, or not to be: that is the question:

Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,

To live or not to live ...

this is the philosophical question he poses

Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,
And by opposing end them?

Is it better to bear with the conflicts of life

passive (endure)

Or actively put an end to these troubles by ending one's life?

Dec 8-11:43 AM

To die: to sleep--
No more-- and by a sleep to say we end
The heart-ache and the thousand natural shocks
That flesh is heir to--

Dying is like sleeping and dying can put an end to all the woes of life.

'tis a consummation
Devoutly to be wish'd.

end

To die, to sleep;
To sleep: perchance to dream: ay, there's the rub;
For in that sleep of death what dreams may come
When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,
Must give us pause.

Because we don't know what the afterlife will bring, we must consider rushing off to "sleep" more thoroughly.

Dec 8-11:43 AM

There's the respect
That makes calamity of so long life.

This is why people endure long,
hard lives... they don't know what's
on the other side.
For who would bear the whips and scorns of time,

The oppressor's wrong, the proud man's contumely,

people in power → arrogance
Oppress

The pangs of despised love, the law's delay,

unrequited ♡ - justice is slow
- legal system fails us

Dec 8-11:44 AM

The insolence of office

↳ rudeness of those in office

and the spurns
That patient merit of the unworthy takes,
When he himself might his quietus make
With a bare bodkin?
Who would fardels bear,
To grunt and sweat under a weary life,

put an end to
it all with
a knife

But that the dread of something after death,

The undiscovered country from whose bourn
No traveller returns,

(DEATH)

no one has ever
returned to tell us
what it's like

fear what
the afterlife
may hold

Dec 8-11:44 AM

puzzles the will
And makes us rather bear those ills we have
Than fly to others that we know not of?

We endure the struggles of our lives
rather than risk a fate that is worse

Thus conscience does make cowards of us all;
And thus the native hue of resolution
Is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought,
And enterprises of great pith and moment
With this regard their currents turn awry,
And lose the name of action.

Our
thoughts
impede
our actions

Soft you now!
The fair Ophelia! Nymph, in thy orisons
Be all my sins remember'd.

We turn away from our intended
actions b/c we fear what we don't know

Dec 8-11:44 AM

Act 3, scene 1

"Rich gifts wax poor when
givers prove unkind."

--Ophelia

"Get thee to a nunnery..."

--Hamlet



Nov 8-7:33 AM

Hamlet's Conversation with Ophelia

Ophelia: Rich gifts wax poor when givers prove unkind.

Hamlet: Ha, ha, are you honest?

chaste

truthful

"Get thee to a nunnery. Why wouldst thou be a breeder of sinners?"

Consider Hamlet's later question to her, "Where is your father?"

Hamlet's view of women:

"Or if thou wilt needs marry, marry a fool, for wise men know well enough what monsters you make of them."

cuckolds

convent
brothel

angry w/women
→ Gertrude

→ Ophelia -
works w/Polonius?

Dec 12-10:02 AM

Ophelia's Assessment of Hamlet

"O, what a noble mind is here o'erthrown!"
The courtier's, soldier's, scholar's, eye, tongue,
sword...quite, quite down!"

Indirect Characterization:

He was talented - a true
Renaissance man:

- intelligent
- brave
- chivalrous, polite
- gentleman

Dec 12-10:17 AM

Claudius' Assessment of Hamlet

"There's something in his soul
O'er which his melancholy sits on brood,
And I do doubt the hatch and the disclose
Will be some danger..."

will send him to England

Polonius' New Plan

"My lord, do as you please,
But, if you hold it fit, after the play
Let his queen mother all alone entreat him
To show his grief."

Polonius will
again listen in.

Dec 12-10:10 AM

Act 3, scene 1

"Rich gifts wax poor when
givers prove unkind."

--Ophelia

"Get thee to a nunnery..."

--Hamlet



Nov 8-7:33 AM



HAMLET

Act 3, scene 2

The Murder of Gonzago
a.k.a. "The Mousetrap"

A Dumb show is a traditional term for pantomime in drama, actions presented by actors onstage without spoken dialogue. The term is most often used in regard to medieval drama and English Renaissance theatre.



Nov 8-7:33 AM

III.ii.

***The Murder of Gonzago

Player King: "Purpose is but the slave to memory..."

"What to ourselves in passion did propose,
The passion ending, doth the purpose lose."

"So think thou wilt no second husband wed,
But die thy thoughts when thy first lord is dead."

Player Queen: "Both here and hence pursue me lasting strife,
If, once a widow, ever I be wife."

Gertrude: "The lady doth protest too much methinks" → The more people say something isn't true the more we believe it actually is...

***Lucianus = nephew to the King

Gertrude thinks the Player Queen's passionate insistence that she will never marry again reveals that she probably will do just that!!

Dec 11-8:58 AM

***Hamlet's Conversation with Rosencrantz and Guildenstern

"How unworthy a thing you make of me!
You would pluck upon me, you would seem to know my stops,
you would pluck out the heart of my mystery,
you would sound me from my lowest note...
do you think I am easier to be played than a pipe?"

Hamlet's Plan for Gertrude

"I will speak daggers to her, but use none."

harsh words for Gertrude

Dec 11-10:16 AM



HAMLET

Act 3, scene 3

allusion

"O, my offense is rank, it smells to heaven;
It hath the primal eldest curse upon 't,
A brother's murder. Pray can I not..."

"But what form of prayer can serve my turn?
'Forgive me my foul murder'? That cannot be,
since I am still possessed of those effects for
which I did the murder: my crown, mine own
ambition, and my queen."
--Claudius

"My words fly up, my thoughts remain below;
Words without thoughts never to heaven go."
--Claudius





Nov 8-7:33 AM

Act 3, scene 4

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern- they are "adders fanged"- he knows they are snakes

"Thou wretched, rash, intruding fool, farewell."
--Hamlet

"I took thee for thy better."
Claudius

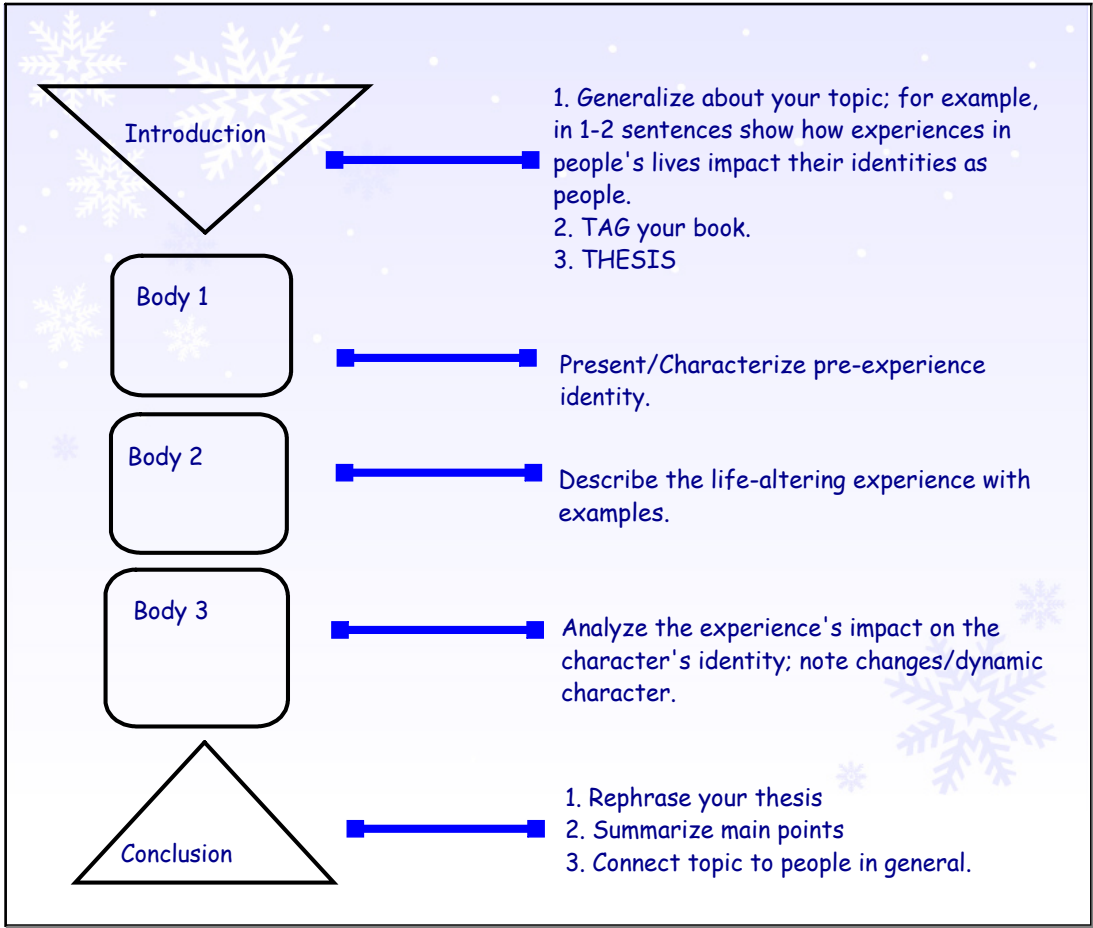
Hamlet's instructions to Gertrude:
-Avoid Claudius and any romantic involvement with him

"Confess yourself to heaven,
Repent what's past, avoid what is to come,
And do not spread the compost on the weeds
To make them ranker."

↓

"I must be cruel only to be kind."
--Hamlet

Nov 8-7:33 AM



Dec 19-9:56 AM

1. Generalize about your THEME
2-3 sentences

2. TAG your work in connection to your theme

3. THESIS

****At least ONE quote per paragraph.**

Topic Sentence- clearly put forth the purpose of the paragraph & connect to THESIS

3-4 IDEAS- LEAD WITH IDEAS!!

Clincher- Drive home what you proved in this paragraph about character

Of course, use literary elements to strengthen your arguments!

Rephrase thesis

Summarize main points

Examine the THEME once more...
(show evidence of original thought)

(Be sure to TRANSITION in TOPIC SENTENCE of your next paragraphs!)

Dec 19-9:57 AM