***HAMLET* ACT 3 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**Act 3 Scene 1**

1. What redeeming or redemptive considerations exist for the subterfuge against Hamlet at the start this act?

2. Pull 2 or more quotes from Hamlet’s soliloquy (123-24; 3.1.57-91) and explain the meaning.

3. How does Hamlet reveal his plot against Claudius to Ophelia? How is it that she would not understand?

**Act 3 Scene 2**

4. What kinds of advice does Hamlet offer the actors? Why would Shakespeare add this?

5. How does Hamlet feel about Horatio? What does he want him to do during the play?

NOTE: On page 141, a scene begins that last just a few moments. The mummers pantomime the actions that voiced actors will present at greater length.

NOTE: A prologue is a separate introductory section of a literary or musical work or an event or action that leads to another event or situation. See 143; 3.2.149.

6. When Hamlet asks his mother if she likes the play, Gertrude says, “The lady doth protest too much, methinks” (149; 3.2.231). Why does she say that?

**Act 3 Scene 3**

7. Why does Polonius feel that he should spy on Gertrude when she speaks to Hamlet? Does he have a point? Does he have a right to do this?

8. Pull 2 or more quotes from Claudius’ prayer (his soliloquy on page 165) and explain what he means.

**Act 3 Scene 4**

9. How do you feel about Polonius’ tone with Gertrude at the start of Act 3?

10. How does Gertrude feel about Hamlet at the end of this scene? What does she promise to do?

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