*Hamlet* Act 4

**4.1**

1. What does the king mean in lines 13-23 and what does he reveal was the weakness of their approach to dealing with Hamlet?

**4.3**

2. Why doesn’t the king send soldiers to apprehend Hamlet since the queen witnessed Polonius’ murder?

3. In what ways does Hamlet insult Claudius?

4. What is Claudius’ plan for Hamlet?

**4.4**

5. Fortinbras sends a messenger to confirm safe passage through Denmark to Poland. Hamlet meets the messenger. What does he learn and what does this suggest about Fortinbras’ purpose?

**4.5**

6. Why have people decided Laertes should be king?

7. What bothers Laertes the most and how does Claudius expect to ease his mind?

**4.6**

8. What happened to Hamlet on his trip?

**4.7**

9. What is the plan Laertes and Claudius create to kill Hamlet?

***Hamlet* Act 5**

**5.1**

1. Identify and explain the various purposes of the discussion between the clowns and the first clown with Hamlet?

2. When discussing his plans with Laertes, what comments does Claudius make that reveals his cunning?

3. What does Hamlet mean when he says, “By the / Lord, Horatio, this three years I have took note of / it: the age / is grown so picked that the toe of the peasant / comes so near the heel of the courtier, he / galls his kibe”?

(galls = chafe’s, roughly rubs; kibe = chilblain = painful, itchy swelling on hand or foot)

**5.2**

4. How does Hamlet learn about Claudius’ plans to have him murdered and how does he beat him at that game?

5. What does Gertrude mean when the messenger lord tells Hamlet, “The Queen desires you to use some gentle entertainment to Laertes before you fall to play”?

*Brackets were intentionally omitted here.*

6. What details are significant in the fight scene?