*Hamlet* 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” (249; 140-45).

(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 entertain- / ment to Laertes before you fall to play” (275; 206-07)?

6. What details are significant in the fight scene?