**Hamlet Worksheet**

Act 3

**Sc 2: R & G w/ Hamlet**

What message to R & G bear to Hamlet? What line?

What do they want to find out? What line?

How does he answer, and what is the significance of his answer? What line?

What metaphor does Hamlet use to describe their attempt to sound him out? What lines? What do these lines reveal about his character?

“Tis Now the Very Witching Hour” (lns 370-380)

* How does the imagery of this speech reinforce the drama’s theme’s, and the drama?
* How do these lines evidence a change in Hamlet? What change?
* Explicate the meaning of “O heart, lose not thy nature. Let not ever the soul of Nero enter this firm bosom. Let me be cruel, not unnatural.”
* In the scene with his mother, how must he continue to “act” in order not to act?”

**Sc 3: King Praying**

What lines evidence the King’s suffering? What is causing is torment?

How does this scene alter our view of the King?

Explicate the line, “my stronger guilt defeats my strong intent?”

Explicate “like a man to double business bound, I stand in pause . . . ?”

In what ways is this scene a mirror of Hamlet’s monologues, and the king a mirror of Hamlet?

What imagery does Shakespeare use to depict the action of mercy or forgiveness for confessed sins? What lines?

Why is forgiveness not an option for the King? (lines?)

What central question does he pose to himself? (ln?)

What does the King’s refusal to give back the spoils of his “offense” reveal about his character?

What lines evidence his impotent desire to confess?

**Hamlet: “Now might I do it.”** (lines 70-100)

What prevents Hamlet from finally taking action, from “sweeping” to his revenge?

What does this reveal about his character?

How is his faith still a source of conflict?

What do these lines reveal about Hamlet’s concept of revenge?

What lines might evidence his continued “descent,” his atavistic regression, his embrace of the beastial?”

What is ironic about the operation of his faith and his lust for the damnation of the king? Can we reconcile his desire to damn the king with the salvation of his own soul? Can one kill and still be devout?