**Hamlet**

Explication Worksheet

(3.1.)

Ophelia and King

What lines evidence Hamlet’s cruelty toward Ophelia?

What might be the reason for his meanness?

What question does he ask of her?

How does he test her answer?

How is this test similar to the way he tested Ros. And Guild?

Why does he urge her to a nunnery?

How does Shakespeare imagery reinforce the meaning of the words spoken by Hamlet and Ophelia?

What does Ophelia’s reaction reveal about her character?

What lines evidence the violence of her reaction?

What lines evidence how the King interprets Hamlet’s behavior toward Ophelia?

What does he decide to do, as a result of this scene?

3.2

**Hamlet’s Speech to the Players**

What acting advice does Hamlet give to the players?

Why?

**The Mouse Trap**

Who does Hamlet recruit to his cause?

Why? And why this particular person?

How does the Mouse Trap play relate to the death of Hamlet’s father, the king?