*Hamlet*

**Explication Worksheet**

(2.2. 530-585)

“Oh what a rogue . . .

1.In what lines do we see evidence of Hamlet’s *masochism*, of his self-directed anger?

2 In what lines do we see evidence of his *envy*? *Who* is he envious of? *Why?* What is being *contrasted* here?

3.In what lines do we see evidence of his *sadism*, of his desire to injure others? Who? Why?

4. Where do we see evidence of his *suffering*, of his conflict? How does this speech evidence his suffering? What is the *cause* of his anguish?

5. What are the *causes* of his *masochistic* impulse?

6. How are the *players* his role models of ideal behavior?

7. How is *art* the remedy for his suffering?

8. In what lines do we find evidence of Hamlet’s *knowledge of the theatre?* What are the *implications* of this knowledge for the play?

9. How does this speech evidence Shakespeare ability to convey *psychological realism* in speech? What is psychologically realistic about this speech?

10. In what lines do we see evidence of Hamlet’s continuing *descent* into the baser realms of his nature?

11. In what lines do we see evidence of *violent fluctuations* of mind?

12. In what lines do we see evidence of a dramatic *turning point* in this speech? What causes this turning point?

13. How does the ending to this speech *reinforce* the ending of the scene with the Ghost (1.5)?

14. Explicate the line: “I’ll have grounds more relative than this?” What does this reveal about his character?