**Hamlet Worksheet**

3.4

Hamlet & Gertrude

Lines 0-218

**Lines 0-53**

Where do we find further evidence of his cruelty, sadism (lines?)

How do his words (“You go not till I set you up a glass/ where you may see the inmost part of you”) enact his advice to the players?

What action prompts the hiding Polonius to reveal his presence?

Where do we find evidence of Hamlet’s further descent?

How do his actions here evidence the superiority of Chance/Fate to Free Will? How is this further evidence of his decent?

What are the implications for the rest of his career in Elsinore of this “rash and bloody deed?”

What does Hamlet’s reaction to the discovery of his error reveal about his character?

What evidence is there that this accidental slaying whets his blood, fuels his cruelty?

What imagery does he use to indict his mother’s actions?

**Lines 53-170**

How do Hamlet’s words in this scene (“look upon this picture”) further enact his advice to the players?

What *comparison* does Hamlet confront Gertrude with?

What *imagery* does he use to reinforce this comparison? Make a short list of images associated with each object of his comparison.

How does Hamlet counter the argument that Gertrude acted out of *love?* What lines? How does he refute the argument that her action were due to love-related *“madness”*? (ln).

Where might we see evidence of Hamlet’s *cruelty* or *sadism?* (lns)

Where do find evidence of Gertrude’s suffering, *pangs of conscience*, *self-honesty*? (lns?)

What does Hamlet’s *refusal to heed his mother’s plea,* “No More,” *reveal* about his character?

Why does the *ghost* reappear at this critical moment?

Why does Gertrude think he’s *mad?* What are we to infer from the fact the *ghost* appears to Hamlet and not to her?

*Why* does Hamlet think the ghost has come again?

What does the *ghost* urge Hamlet to do relative to his mother?

What evidence is there that Hamlet’s *act of the madman* is taking over his sanity? That the role is possessing the actor? How does this serve his cause? How does it further evidence his descent from lofty status?

What does Gertrude *“see”* as opposed to Hamlet?

What might be the *cause* of Hamlet’s genuine madness?

In what lines do we find further evidence to support the thesis that he’s mad?

How does Hamlet *refute* her charge of madness? (lns?)

*Explicate* the lines: “Lay not that flattering unction to your soul/ that not your trespass but my madness speaks” (145-146).

What *imagery* does he use to reinforce his counter-thesis, concerning the real cause of his behavior?

What *two things* does her order her to do?

Where do we find evidence of the *violence* of his words upon her? (ln?)

**Lines 175-218**

Where do we find further evidence that *Fate* has usurped Hamlet’s free will? (ln?)

How does he *coerce* his mother’s *cooperation* in his intrigues against the King? What does he ask her to do? Why? What does this *reveal* about his character?

What is the *difference* between being *“mad”* and being “*mad in craft?”*

What does Hamlet’s *foreknowledge* of the King’s plans reveal about his character? How does this reinforce previous scenes? Which ones?

What do the words, “I will delve one yard below their mines,” reveal about him?

What do the words “I’ll lug the guts into the neighboring room,” reveal about his character?