

Emily Morrison

Leah Morrison

Alana Wickering

Hamlet Exam Prep

Major Characters and Descriptions-

Hamlet: Hamlet, being the main character has the tragic flaw of the story. His tragic flaw is his inability to take action. He is delirious, indecisive, yet filled with hate and seeks revenge for his father. Hamlet is very philosophical and very depressed throughout the story. Hamlet changes in every scene. He is angry, dejected, manic, elated, enthusiastic, and energetic. He is dark and suicidal, a man who loathes himself and his fate.

Claudius: He killed his own brother to become king. After he does it he tells himself that he feels bad but would do it again. He did not pray for forgiveness when he killed Old Hamlet. He is deceitful, evil, manipulative and powerful. He gets what he wants throughout the story because of his power as king. His main character motivation is him seeking power.

Gertrude: The queen, Hamlet's married to Hamlet's real father, then to his brother after his death. Gertrude is a very clueless woman which leads to her inevitable death.

Polonius: Follows Claudius and Gertrude and will always do what Claudius says. He cares for his children but is too much of a gossip and is selfish.

Ophelia: The daughter of Polonius and Hamlet's love interest in the story. Ophelia is normal in the beginning of the story and then the way Hamlet acts around her corrupts her. Hamlet comes into her chamber acting manic and does many other things that make her start going manic

herself. He taunts her for her sexuality and tells her to go to a nunnery. Ophelia sings about chastity and virtue and ends up committing suicide after going crazy.

Horatio: Hamlet's closest friend. When Hamlet dies he wants to die as well but Hamlet tells him stay alive to tell his story.

Laertes: Protective of his sister and not afraid to stand up for what he believes in. He is a foil to Hamlet in the sense that he acts on what he believes he should where Hamlet just talks about doing things and does not do them.

Setting- The royal castle in Denmark, this setting allows characters to eavesdrop easily, and emphasizes other characters' feelings of entitlement.

10-15 Major Events

1. The Ghost tells Hamlet to get revenge for him
2. Claudius kills his brother
3. Hamlet goes to Ophelia's chamber and acts crazy
4. Hamlet accidentally kills Polonius
5. Claudius and Laertes plan to kill Hamlet
6. Ophelia drowns (suicide?)
7. Hamlet manipulates the letter and gets Rosencrantz and Guildenstern killed
8. Hamlet and Laertes fence
9. Hamlet finds out of Ophelia's death from the grave diggers
10. Hamlet goes to kill Claudius and then believes he is praying and backs down

11. Laertes is cut by his own sword
12. Gertrude drinks from Hamlet's poisoned cup, and Hamlet kills Claudius before dying
13. Fortinbras appears after all the death, and inherits Hamlet's land

Major Themes

Revenge- Hamlet's main focus throughout this story is getting revenge against Claudius for killing his father. The Ghost aka his father also has a main goal of revenge that he passes onto Hamlet. After Hamlet kills Polonius, Laertes wants to get revenge on Hamlet for killing his father. Claudius also wants to get revenge on Hamlet which is why he plans to kill him.

Madness- Hamlet acts crazy throughout the entirety of the story. He acts in crazy ways, corrupts other characters, and it leads to his inevitable death. Claudius is also driven by madness because he kills his brother and then marries his brother's wife. He also plans to kill people, like Hamlet. Ophelia also dies due to madness.

Morality and meaning of life/existence- These are the causes of Hamlet's despair, and play a role in his fatal flaw of inaction. Hamlet is philosophical throughout the entire story and talks a lot about the meaning of life, usually with Horatio.

Lies and deceit- Hamlet is constantly surrounded by deception in his life. He is aware that his father was murdered but he keeps it to himself so he can get revenge. As a prince, he is surrounded by political turmoil. People are always lying and deceiving so they can get what they want.