

HAMLET: SHARED INQUIRY. Kathy Tse

Are you able to write responses to your five questions in YOUR voice without "helpful" resources? That may serve as an adequate substitute as your wifi stinks!

- Mrs. Brayko



What function does Hamlet's madness serve in the plot of the play? (C3)

- He uses this as a way to throw people off guard in order to buy time and test out the ghosts' theory that his uncle murdered his father.
- He's also in a very deep emotional state after his father's death and that allows him to express himself in ways that are anti-social.

Plot advancement:

Because of Hamlet's madness, his opponents are unclear about his motives, and therefore they try to understand and get to the bottom of this by using Ophelia, Rosencrantz, and Guildenstern.

- Ophelia gets very hurt from Hamlet's madness. He's said things such as never having any feelings for her which aren't true. ("I loved you not.") and at the end of the play she does become mad and commit suicide.
- Not only this but because of Hamlet's increasingly outrageous behavior, Claudius finally has a reason to send Hamlet away to England.

How does Hamlet's madness contrast to Ophelia's madness in the play (C3)

Ophelia

- She sings
- There are many references to flowers (symbol for losing her mind)

Similar

- Their similarities lie in the fact their madness reflects their emotional suffering and shows great grief.
- For example, she sings when her lover has abandoned

Contrast:

- In Hamlet's madness, there are a lot more puns and it's quite insulting to the person he talks to
- And it also becomes an excuse for him to insult people
- We can see that he's being very strategic

QUOTE:

Farewell, dear mother.

CLAUDIUS: Thy loving father, Hamlet.

HAMLET : My mother. Father and mother is man and wife, man and wife is one flesh, and so, my mother.—Come, for England!

From here we can also see his intelligence and makes a logical syllogism

What are some symbols that show Hamlet's madness?

“Inky Cloak”

- The wearing of black is a socially acceptable symbol of mourning and grief.
- That's why when his mother says “*Good Hamlet, cast thy nighted color off*” she's telling him to put aside his grief and in other words, stop wearing black.
- And Hamlet's response is that his wearing black isn't just a symbol of his grief but he actually feels very sad that his father isn't here.

But I have that within which passeth show,
These but the trappings and the suits of woe

To what extent is Hamlet's madness strategic? (C2)

ACT 1 Scene 2.

Polonius says that “*Though this is madness, yet there is a method in 't.*” -- Polonius

The contrast between his mad behavior and his strategic use of the madness.

Hamlet makes references that are not true since Polonius is not a fishmonger, as he's the adviser to the King.

“*Excellent well. You are a fishmonger.*”

“*He said I was a fishmonger. He is far gone, far gone.*”

But at the same time, he takes advantage of that madness to insult Polonius' physical appearance and intelligence.

[referring to the book he is reading] For the satirical rogue says here that old men have gray beards, that their faces are wrinkled, their eyes purging thick amber and plum-tree gum, and that they have a plentiful lack of wit, together with most weak hams

Sensory detail: color, texture, listings.

The function of specific textual details in the development of theme. (C6)

How does Hamlet's emotional state in reference to madness develop through the pain?

- There's a development of madness when he decides to be mad and behaves very mad in act 2, 3 and 4 and by act 5, he becomes a lot more purposeful.

Act I : "Put on an antic disposition" → I'm going to pretend to be mad