



3055 BA SANGAM COLLEGE

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LESSON NOTES

School: Ba Sangam College

Year/Level: 13

Name: _____

Subject: English

Worksheet 18

Year: _____

Strand	Reading and Viewing
Sub Strand	Communication Text Types – media, everyday communication, literary texts
Content Learning Outcome	Read and demonstrate understanding of a variety of complex texts.

LITERATURE

GENRE: DRAMA

TITLE: HAMLET

PLAYWRIGHT: WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

ACT 3

SCENE 3

This scene takes place the same evening as the production of *The Murder of Gonzago*. After everyone has dispersed from the hall where the play was performed, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern meet with Claudius. Claudius tells them that Hamlet, being dangerous in his madness, must be taken away to England for everyone's safety. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern accept the assignment and leave to prepare.

Polonius comes to Claudius, reporting that Hamlet is headed to see Gertrude in her chambers. Polonius hurries off to hide somewhere in the vicinity so that he may observe the interaction between mother and son.

Left alone, Claudius contemplates the murder that audiences now know he committed. In a soliloquy, he talks about seeking forgiveness for his sin and praying over it—and he wonders about being pardoned for it if he retains all the power he gained in committing it. From his speech, it appears Claudius wants to be pardoned for his deed but not if getting pardoned means giving up crown and queen.

Hamlet, en route to see his mother, finds Claudius attempting to pray. He momentarily considers killing the king then and there but realizes—according to beliefs of the time—that if he were to kill Claudius while in prayer and seeking repentance (which he thinks Claudius is)—he would inadvertently send him straight to heaven. With that, he moves on to find his mother

ACT 3

SCENE 4

This scene also takes place on the night of the production of *The Murder of Gonzago* in which Hamlet has tried to prove to himself that Claudius has killed his father. In the queen's chambers, Polonius instructs Gertrude on speaking with Hamlet and hides himself behind a tapestry before Hamlet enters.

When Hamlet arrives, he and Gertrude begin talking, with Hamlet verbally sparring and growing angry with her. His behavior frightens Gertrude, and she cries out. Polonius cries out in anger from his hiding spot. In response, Hamlet shouts that he hears a rat and stabs Polonius through the tapestry, killing him.

As Hamlet pulls aside the tapestry to find Polonius, both he and Gertrude are hysterical. She is terrified and filled with sorrow for Polonius; Hamlet rages at Gertrude with all the thoughts that have been festering in his brain, including the ideas that Claudius killed King Hamlet and, worse yet, that she may have been part of the scheme to kill his father.

In the chaos of their exchange, the ghost appears. He tells Hamlet he has returned both to put him back on task and to remind him to leave his mother alone. As Hamlet responds to the ghost, it becomes clear Gertrude neither sees nor hears the spirit, and the exchange further convinces her of his madness. Hamlet reminds Gertrude he is being banished to England, and that he knows she has hired Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to spy on him. He leaves her, dragging Polonius's body with him

QUESTIONS (5 MARKS)

1. What does Claudius ask God in his prayer? (1 mark)

2. Hamlet gets the perfect opportunity to kill Claudius as he was all alone and was praying. Why didn't Hamlet kill him? (1 mark)

3. What reason does Claudius give for sending Hamlet to England? (1 mark)

4. Briefly sum up the conversation between Hamlet and his mother. (2 marks)
