"To be, or not to be, that is the question

GEAGETE LEGENE LENGTH

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Act I, scene u

Hamlet has returned home from studying in Wittenberg to attend his father's funeral. Still in deep mourning, Hamlet is appalled by his mother's hastly remarriage to the dead King's brother, who has assumed the throne and persists in calling him "son." The circumstances drive Hamlet to voice his first passionate soliloquy. pallyable operation with the most fire

From Act I, Scene il:

Hamlet: son to the late King Hamlet, and nephew to the present King

Claudius. King of Denmark

Gertrude: Queen of Denmark, and mother to Hamlet

Polonius: Lord Chamberlain Laertes: son to Polonius

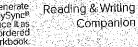
Location: Elsinore, the castle

- KING: Take thy fair hour, Laertes, time be thine,
- And thy best graces spend it at thy will
- But now, my cousin Hamlet, and my son—
- HAMLET: [Aside] A little more than kin, and less than kind.
- KING: How is it that the clouds still hand on you? Two belones to the control of the control of
- HAMLET: Not so, my lord, I am too much in the suner
- QUEEN: Good Hamlet, cast thy nighted color off,
- And let thine eye look like a friend on Denmark.
- Do not for ever with thy valled lids
- Seek for thy noble father in the dust:
- Thou know'st 'tis common, all that lives must die
- Passing through nature to eternity.
- HAMLET: Ay, madam, it is common.

Literary Elements

The point of view allows the reader to hear a cleverly written aside that effectively establishes conflict and Hamlet's disgust for his uncle. The references to weather create a brooding mood that successfully mirrors Hamlet's sense of frustration. These elements make me think something tragic will happen.

Companion







- QUEEN: If it be,
- Why seems it so particular with thee?
- HAMLET: Seems, madam? Nay, it is, I know not "seems."
- 'Tis not alone my inky cloak, good mother,
- Nor customary suits of solemn black, 19
- Nor windy suspiration of forc'd breath,
- No, nor the fruitful river in the eye,
- Nor the dejected havior of the visage, 22
- Together with all forms, moods, shapes of grief, 23
- That can denote me truly. These indeed seem, 24
- For they are actions that a man might play, 25
- But I have that within which passes show,
- 26 These but the trappings and the suits of woe.
- 27
- KING: 'Tis sweet and commendable in your nature, Hamlet,
- To give these mourning duties to your father. 29
- But you must know your father lost a father, 30
- That father lost, lost his, and the survivor bound
- In filial obligation for some term 32
- To do obsequious sorrow. But to persever 33
- In obstinate condolement is a course 34
- 35) Of impious stubbornness 'tis unmanly grief,
- It shows a will most incorrect to heaven,
- A heart unfortified, or mind impatient,
- An understanding simple and unschool'd:
- For what we know must be, and is as common
- As any the most vulgar thing to sense,
 - Why should we in our peevish opposition
- Take it to heart? Fie tis a fault to heaven,
- A fault against the dead a fault to nature,
- To reason most absurd, whose common theme
- Is death of fathers, and who still hath cried, From the first corse till he that died to-day,
- "This must be so." We pray you, throw to earth This unprevailing woe, and think of us
- As of a father, for let the world take note
- You are the most immediate to our throne,
- And with no less nobility of love
- 51 Than that which dearest father bears his son
- Do I impart toward you. For your intent
- In going back to school in Wittenberg, 54
- It is most retrograde to our desire, 55
- And we beseech you, bend you to remain





- Here in the cheer and comfort of our eye, 57
- Our chiefest courtier, cousin, and our son: 58
- QUEEN: Let not thy mother lose her prayers, Hamlet, 59
- I pray thee stay with us, go not to Wittenberg.
- HAMLET: I shall in all my best obey you, madamised
- KING: Why, 'tis a loving and a fair reply:
- Be as ourself in Denmark. Madam, come.
- This gentle and unforc'd accord of Hamlet 64
- Sits smiling to my heart, in grace whereof, 65
- No jocund health that Denmark drinks to-day,
- But the great cannon to the clouds shall tell, 67
- And the King's rouse the heaven shall bruit again, .68
- Respeaking earthly thunder Come away: The state of the s
- [Flourish, Exeunt all but HAMLET.]
- HAMLET: O that this too too solid flesh would melt,
- Thaw and resolve itself into a dewl
- Or that the Everlasting had not fix d 73.
- His canon gainst self-slaughterl O God, God,
- How weary, stale, flat and unprofitable
- Seem to me all the uses of this world! 76
- Fie on't, ah fiel 'tis an unweeded garden. 77
- That grows to seed, things rank and gross in nature
- Possess it merely. That it should come to this 79
- But two months dead, nay, not so much, not two.
- So excellent a king-that was to this 81
- Hyperion to a satyr2; so loving to my mother and 82
- That he might not beteem the winds of heaven 83
- Visit her face too roughly. Heaven and earth, (1997) (1997) 84
- Must I remember? Why, she would hang on him
- 85
- As if increase of appetite had grown 86
- By what it fed on, and yet, within a month-87
- Let me not think on't Frailty, thy name is woman! 88
- A little month, or ere those shoes were old
- With which she followed my poor father's body, 90
- Like Niobe, all tears—why, she, even she
- O, God, a beast that wants discourse of reason

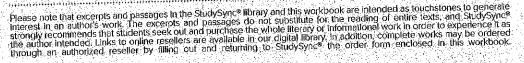
SAMPLE ANNOTATION

Literary Elements

Alone on stage, Hamlet wishes he could metaphorically dissolve into dew because he thinks his life has lost all meaning. The author's specific diction choices, "weary, stale, flat and unprofitable" effectively convey the disgust Hamlet feels about the marriage of his uncle and his mother.

1. Hyperion the sun-god

2. satyr in Greek mythology, a lustful, drunken god of the woods, represented as a half manhalf horse or goat.







- Would have mourn'd longer—married with my uncle,
- My father's brother, but no more like my father
 - Than I to Hercules. Within a month,
- Ere yet the salt of most unrighteous tears 96
- Had left the flushing in her galled eyes, 97
- She married—O most wicked speed: to post With such dexterity to incestuous sheets, 98
- It is not, nor it cannot come to good,
- But break my heart, for I must hold my tongue.

From Act II, Scene ii:

- Hamlet has been visited by an apparition claiming to be the ghost of his father, who urges Hamlet to avenge his father's murder. Hamlet swears he will obey, but hesitates. Watching a group of traveling players perform the murder of Priam, king of Troy, Hamlet compares one actor's passionate portrayal of Hecuba, Priam's grieving widow, to his own inaction.
- HAMLET: O, what a rogue and peasant slave am I!
- Is it not monstrous that this player
- But in a fiction, in a dream of passion,
- Could force his soul so to his own conceit
- That from her working all his visage
- Tears in his eyes, distraction in his aspect,
 - A broken voice, an' his whole function suiting
- With forms to his conceit? And all for nothing,
- For Hecubal
- What's Hecuba to him, or he to Hecuba, 112
- That he should weep for her? What would he do
- Had he the motive and the cue for passion
- That I have? He would drown the stage with tears,
- And cleave the general ear with horrid speech,
- Make mad the guilty, and appall the free, 117
- Confound the ignorant, and amaze indeed
- The very faculties of eyes and ears. Yet 1, 2000, 2000
- A dull and muddy-mettled rascal, peak³
- . Like John-a-dreams⁴, unpregnant of⁵ my cause,



Hamlet, Horatio, Marcellus and the Ghost, engraving by Robert Thew, based on a Painting by Henry Fuseli. CAR Land

^{3.} peak to mope

^{4.} John-a-dreams a nickname for a daydreamer

^{5.} unpregnant of unquickened, or unmoved, by