*Hamlet* Pre-Reading Survey

*Directions: For the following statements, write “A” if you agree with the statement or “D” if you disagree with the statement. Be prepared to discuss your answers.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A or D | Statement |
|  | It is acceptable to get revenge on someone who has caused you harm. |
|  | Parents have the right to check up or spy on their children as long as their intentions are to protect their child. |
|  | It is acceptable for siblings to date each other’s “exes.” |
|  | If someone challenges you to a fight, you should not back down, regardless of the consequences. |
|  | When someone is attempting to date you, it is acceptable to play hard-to-get. |
|  | When a family member says that a boyfriend/girlfriend is not good for you, they usually end up being right. |
|  | If your spouse dies, it is acceptable to marry another person after three months has passed. |

*Directions: In the space below, explain WHY you agree or disagree with one of the statements above. Your response should be at least four sentences and if possible should include examples.*

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PRE-DETECTING KEY LINES FROM *HAMLET*

The following lines come from Act I of William Shakespeare's Hamlet. Read each line aloud. What do you think the line means? Who do you imagine is speaking the line—a man or woman, someone old or young, powerful or weak, good or evil? Human or supernatural? To whom (or what) is he or she speaking? Write your ideas under each quote.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Direct Quote | Predictions |
| "A little more than kin and less than kind." (I,i 65) |  |
| "O! that this too too solid ﬂesh would melt,  Thaw and resolve itself into a dew" (I,i 129-30) |  |
| "Do not, as some ungracious pastors do,  Show me the steep and thorny way to heaven,  Whiles, like a puff'd and reckless libertine,  Himself the primrose path of dalliance treads,  And recks not his own rede." (I,iii 45-51) |  |
| "This above all: to thine own self be true,  And it must follow, as the night the day,  Thou canst not then be false to any man." (I,iii 78-80) |  |
| "Look, with what courteous action  It waves you to a more removed ground: But do not go with it." (I,iv 60-2) |  |
| "Rest, rest, perturbed spirit! So, gentlemen,  With all my love I do commend me to you:  And what so poor a man as Hamlet is  May do, to express his love and friending to you  God willing, shall not lack." (I,v 183-7) |  |

Weird Word Log

Create a "Weird Word Log" to keep track of unusual words in *Hamlet*. For each word, you may wish to write a deﬁnition or synonym and write and illustrate a sentence of your own that employs the word.

avouch

HORATIO: "Before my God, I might not this believe

Without my sensible and true avouch

Of mine own eyes." (I,i 56-58)

supposal

CLAUDIUS: "Now follows, that you know, young Fortinbras,

Holding a weak supposal of our worth […]

He hath not fail'd to pester us with message,

Importing the surrender of those lands

Lost by his father…" (I,ii 17-24)

retrograde

CLAUDIUS: "For your intent.

In going back to school in Wittenberg,

It is most retrograde to our desire;

And we beseech you, bend you to remain

Here…" (I,ii 112-6)

beteem

HAMLET: "So excellent a king. . .

So loving to my mother

That he might not beteem the winds of heaven

Visit her face too roughly." (I,ii 139-142)

attent

HORATIO "Season you admiration for a while

With an attent ear, till I may deliver,

Upon the witness of these gentlemen,

This marvel to you." (I,ii 192-5)

cap-a-pe

HORATIO: "…a ﬁgure like your father,

Armed at point exactly, cap-a-pe,

Appears before them, and with solemn march

Goes slow and stately by them…" (I,ii 199-202)

Weird Word Log Continued…

tenable

HAMLET: "I pray you all,

If you have hitherto conceal'd this sight,

Let is be tenable in your silence still." (I,ii 245-7)

cautel

LAERTES: "Perhaps he loves you now,

And now no soil nor cautel doth besmirch

The virtue of his will…" (I,iii 14-6)

behooves

POLONIUS: "I must tell you,

You do not understand yourself so clearly

As it behooves my daughter and your honour." (I,iii 95-7)

clepe

HAMLET: "This heavy-headed revel east and west

Makes us traduc'd and tax'd of other nations;

They clepe us drunkards." (I,iv 17-9)

cerements

HAMLET: "….but tell me

Why thy canoniz'd bones, hearsed in death

Have burst their cerements…" (I,iv 46-8)

apt

GHOST: "I ﬁnd thee apt

And duller shouldst thou be than the fat weed

That rots itself in ease on Lethe wharf,

Wouldst thou not stir in this." (I,v 31-4)

MUSICALLY SPEAKING

**Directions:** Below are short songs that summarize the events of each Act. Next to each Song Summary write your Predictions/Explanations of Events as presented in each song.

**Act 1 Song Summary Lyrics** **PREDICTIONS/POSSIBLE EXPLANATION**

Hey Hamlet, what's on your mind?

Oh, I know that your kin have all been less than kind

Yeah, your mother's remarried, your dad has just died,

And it all seems a little suspicious, now,

And you're starting to have these visions, now.

And something is rotten in the state of Denmark.

Oh your father in armor is haunting the ramparts,

And your mother's upset that your clothes are so dark,

But now you're starting to make some sense of it.

A murder committed, and you will avenge it,

But to prove that it's true, you'll play the detective.

And I hope you know what you're doing,

'Cause you can tell that trouble's a'brewing.

Oh, and Hamlet, Hamlet, I just hope you don't screw it all up.

**Act 2 Song Summary Lyrics PREDICTIONS/POSSIBLE EXPLANATION**

Hey Hamlet, what's your game?

Have you really, truly gone insane?

Is it really love that plagues your brain?

Is it all on account of fair Ophelia?

We're all just guessing at how you feel now.

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern: we charge you with the task to learn,

Just why our prince has taken this turn,

But we could have hoped for better spies.

We hear that Hamlet is going to write

A play to be performed tonight,

But I hope he realizes

That the king doesn't like surprises.

Oh Hamlet, Hamlet, go try it, we'll see if it works.

**Act 3 Song Summary Lyrics PREDICTIONS/POSSIBLE EXPLANATION**

Hey Ophelia, why so sad?

Your boyfriend's gone completely mad.

And you'd like some comfort from your dad,

But though it's obvious that you're hurting,

He's still hiding behind the curtain.

And Hamlet doesn't even care,

He's watching Claudius make his prayer,

And he's talking to people that are not there,

And his mom's convinced he's crazy now,

He's starting to swing his sword around,

But he ﬁnally tells her what's it's all about,

And now she ﬁnally gets it.

She's on the road to redemption.

Oh Hamlet, Hamlet, I hope you don't mess it all up.

MUSICALLY SPEAKING Continued…

**Act 4 Song Summary Lyrics PREDICTIONS/POSSIBLE EXPLANATION**

Hey Laertes, who's to blame?

Oh who's the reason your dad lies slain?

Who drove your lovely sister insane?

I'll tell you that they're one and the same,

I'll bet that you can guess his name.

Hamlet is the man to ﬁght,

Oh this time we're gonna do it right,

Yeah I'll poison everything in sight.

I sent him away but he'll soon return,

Pirates took his ship I've learned,

And nobody cares what happened to Rosencrantz and Guildenstern,

'Cause Laertes you've been burned.

Now Hamlet, Hamlet is gonna get what he deserves.

**Act 5 Song Summary Lyrics PREDICTIONS/POSSIBLE EXPLANATION**

Hey Hamlet, let's review

The tragedy you've put us through.

Oh what's a Danish prince to do,

When your father's ghost gives command?

You've gotta step up and be a man.

So you hunker down and get to work,

Start serving up some just desserts,

And if a lot of innocent folks get hurt,

Just try not to worry about it.

It's a shame the way Ophelia drowned,

And it's a shame the way you weren't around for it,

Oh, but, hey Hamlet, you did good.

You acted like a good son should.

You did everything that you could.

You wrote a play that exposed the king,

You established the innocence of the queen,

You used your wits, you played it cool,

While on the outside you played a fool,

And despite your doubts you fought a duel

With Laertes, the man you wronged

And still you agreed to play along,

And when you found out what was going on,

You stabbed the king through the chest,

And with your ﬁnal dying breath,

You forgave the man who caused your death,

(You understand you were both so upset).

And though your noble life was lost,

The throne will pass to Fortinbras,

And I'm sure he'll do a really good job.

So Hamlet don't you fret,

You truly did your best.

Oh Hamlet, sweet Hamlet, may angels guide thee to thy rest.