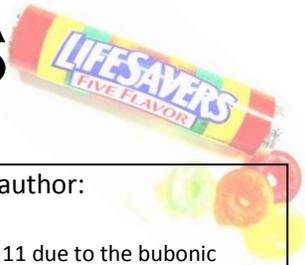


OPERATION: LIFESAVERS

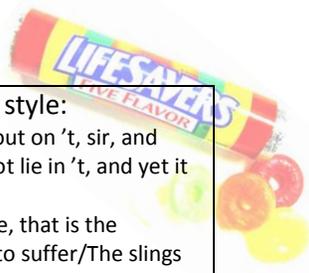
GOAL: EVERYONE WILL BEAT THE AP LITERATURE EXAM

DATE OF MISSION: MAY 10TH



<p>Title: Hamlet Author: William Shakespeare Date of Publication: 1603 Genre: Tragedy</p>	<p>Biographical information about author:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shakespeare's son, Hamnet, died at 11 due to the bubonic plague. Many believe that Shakespeare was inspired to write Hamlet after his only son's death.• There was an old Elizabethan play titled "Ur-Hamlet", which has now been lost. This is believed to be one of the biggest sources for Shakespeare's Hamlet.• Some say Shakespeare's main source for Hamlet was probably the Third Book of Gesta Danorum (which was also called Historia Danica) by Saxo Grammaticus. The story was retold by François de Belleforest in Histoires Tragiques.• Others believe that Shakespeare used Hamlet as a metaphor to highlight the tensions that existed and arose during the "English Reformation" that delved in to whether Catholics were legitimate or the Protestants. Shakespeare brought both beliefs together in the play.
<p>Historical information about the period of publication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Theaters closed in 1593 due to the spread of the bubonic plague.• In 1556, the company of actors moved to the Swan Theatre on Bankside when London's authorities banned the public presentation of plays within the city limits of London.• James the VI of Scotland, the son of Mary Queen of Scots, became the new monarch, known in England as King James I in 1603.• March 24th, 1603, Queen Elizabeth dies.• June 29th, 1613, a fire destroys the Globe Theater and is rebuilt in 1614.• 1598 Shakespeare and other members of the company financed the building of the Globe Theatre on Bankside.	<p>Characteristics of the genre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tragedy: A serious play in which the chief character, by some peculiarity of psychology, passes through a series of misfortunes leading to a final, devastating catastrophe.• Revenge Tragedy (or play): A Renaissance genre of drama in which the plot revolves around the hero's attempt to avenge a previous wrong by killing the perpetrator of the deed, commonly with a great deal of bloodshed and incidental violence.
<p>Plot summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marcellus and Bernardo, two officers see the ghost of the late king walking the ramparts of Elsinore and summon Horatio, Hamlet's closest friend to witness it. When Horatio sees the ghost, he convinces Hamlet that the ghost is real and that he should see him as well.• The ghost took Hamlet aside and told him the true story of his death; his brother Claudius murdered him in his garden and remarried Hamlet's mother Gertrude so he can take the throne. The ghost then asks Hamlet to avenge his death.• Instead of taking action right away, Hamlet overanalyzes everything and instead, falls into a deep state of melancholy where he contemplates suicide. Hamlet "acts mad" in front of everyone but Horatio; however, some believe that he truly did go mad.• Gertrude and Claudius worry about Hamlet's sanity so they employ his two childhood friends, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, to watch over him and report to them of anything unusual. Polonius suggests that the reason behind Hamlet's "madness" was that Ophelia was staying away from him.• Hamlet puts on a play within a play-about someone killing another to take the throne-to try and catch his uncle's uneasiness because that would prove to everyone else that he was guilty of killing the late king.• Claudius is frustrated with Hamlet and tells Polonius to hide behind the curtains and eavesdrop on the conversation between the Queen and her son. That plan quickly fails when Hamlet thinks Claudius is hidden in the curtains and stabs them only to find a bleeding Polonius behind it.• King Claudius orders Hamlet to be sent off to England since he couldn't deal with the "insane, murderous boy" anymore. While he is gone, Ophelia dies of heartbreak from her father's death and Laertes, her brother, returns to avenge his father's death.• Laertes works with Claudius to plan how they will defeat Hamlet without having the kingdom suspect that they did it purposely.• Since this is a tragedy, everyone dies in the end in a massive fencing brawl which results with Horatio as the last man standing, a poisoned king, queen, and Laertes, and a slayed Hamlet.• Hamlet's dying words were to make Horatio king which to many, was the best choice condering his loyalty, bravery, and honest nature.	





Describe the author's style:

Shakespeare's *Hamlet* was written in a combination of verse, prose, and a hint of sarcasm. The verse is in iambic pentameter and although it doesn't rhyme, it still sounds like the characters are reciting poems. However, the whole play is not a poem because prose, or the "everyday english" is embedded within the verse. This makes his writing sound elegant, yet just a tad bit informal. Shakespeare's work is from form being short and terse—he takes minute thoughts and events and makes them out to be something huge and write monologues and soliloquys to describe them in as much detail as possible. The sarcasm is meant to add in dry humor in grave scenes.

An example that demonstrates the style:

Prose & sarcasm: GRAVEDIGGER- "You lie out on 't, sir, and therefore 'tisnot yours. For my part, I do not lie in 't, and yet it is mine" (266).
 Exaggeration: HAMLET- "To be, or not to be, that is the question:/Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer/The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,/Or to take arms against a sea of troubles" (142).
 Verse: POLONIUS- "My liege, and madam, to expostulate /What majesty should be, what duty is, /Why day is day, night night, and time is time. /Were nothing but to waste night, day, and time" (102).

Memorable Quotes

Quote	Significance
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "I'll be your foil, Laertes. In mine ignorance /Your skill shall, like a star i' the darkest night, /Stick fiery off indeed" (296). 2. "The serpent that did sting they fathers life / Now wears his crown" (72). 3. "If this had not been a gentlewoman, she should have been buried out o' Christian burial" (260). 4. "To be or not to be, that is the question" (142). 5. "Something is rotten in the state of Denmark" (68). 6. "I'll cross it though it blast me. Stay, illusion" (30). 7. KING: "Thanks, Rosencrantz and gentle Guildenstern." QUEEN: "Thanks, Guildenstern and gentle Rosencrantz." (96). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In literature, a foil would bring out the good attributes of another character. When Hamlet says the quote to Laertes, he is saying that he is better than him and by comparing the two, Laertes will outshine him. Hamlet would the dark sky that will be illuminated by Laertes' bright rays of light. This can also be related to the idea of how Laertes immediately took action to avenge his father's death and is willing to do anything for his family whereas Hamlet has been delaying his mission with any excuse he comes up with. Laertes is the "better" version of Hamlet. 2. When the Ghost says this to Hamlet, he revealing a secret that shapes the play and will eventually lead to everone's death in the end. However, the main point of this quote was to reveal Hamlet's weak character. He easily believed what the ghost was saying about Claudius taking his life and wanted to get revenge for his father. Instead of taking action, he fell into a deep state of melancholy and contemplates suicide. 3. The gravedigger says this to show that social class meant everything to people back then and even when they are dead, they are still treated differently. Ophelia drowned herself and back then, a person wouldn't be given a Christian burial if they committed suicide. Due to her father's position with the king, she was given the burial that she didn't deserve. Social class could be considered a them in the play because the reason Ophelia could not be with hamlet was because her rank was lower than his—she knew her place in society when it came to the prince and because of that, they have no future together. 4. This quote is significant because it shows the "ugly" thoughts one has when things don't go their way. It allows us to see inside Hamlet's mind and to see how his brain operates when he's not "mad". He contemplates suicide and the way he goes about it shows the audience that he really is insane. His thoughts rapidly change from supporting the idea, to bashing himself for even thinking about it. 5. This quote is significant because it foreshadows that something evil is on its way to them and sets the mood as gloomy and depressing. The significance of it being said in the beginning is to hints at the tragedy that will soon come to the characters of the play. 6. This quote is significant because it hints at the theme of insanity by showing that Horatio is willing to do whatever it takes to see this ghost that could just be an Illusion. He is willing to risk being hurt to see something that might not even be true just to satisfy his thoughts. This is what starts building the path of madness that will take many lives. 7. Aside from the fact that they are both thanking Guildenstern and Rosencrantz for betraying Hamlet, it also shows the role women played back then. Despite the fact that Gertrude is the queen, she still follows Claudius's footsteps and does everything he expects of her. Men have the upperhand and she doesn't really have a voice to use. The man had to speak first before she can say anything and even when she did, it had to be something he approved of.





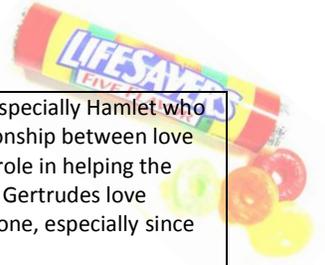
Characters			
Name	Role in the story	Significance	Adjectives
Here, include about 5 characters, unless you think there need to be more.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Role in the story includes simple character descriptions. King Claudius was Hamlet's step-father and uncle who killed Hamlet's father to gain the throne and the marriage of Queen Gertrude. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> His significance is that he was a central character who secretly struggled with hidden guilt and sin and that he served as a foil for <u>Hamlet</u> since he acted on his desires instead of simply just thinking about them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjectives to describe him might include: conniving, guilty, shameless, evil.
Hamlet	Known as the prince of Denmark, he is the son of Queen Gertrude. He plots against his uncle after finding out that he had murdered his father	His significance is that he becomes the protagonist of the story. After finding out about the death of his father from the ghost, Hamlet vows revenge against his uncle. Through out the story we see the struggles hamlet face such as life and death leading to suicidal thoughts and possible madness.	Vengeful Uncertain Angry Romantic Suicidal Faithful Intelligent
Claudius	King Claudius was known in the book for not only being Hamlet's uncle, but also his new father. He killed Hamlets father due to jealousy and power hunger.	His Significance in the story is not only being the antoganist and a murder, but a power hungry backstabber and at some point felt guilt towards murdering his brother. However his guilt vanished after attempting to murder his nephew Hamlet.	Lethal Guilty Powerful Evil Decisive
Ophelia	Ophelia is the daughter of polonious and also Hamlets lover. She struggles and becomes depressed once her father is murdered and her love towards hamlet is denied. She dies of heartache.	Ophelia is known in the book for being Hamlet lover and possible being crazy after her fathers death and hamlets denial towards her love. She acted based off of emotions and possibly committed suicide. She has a very weak and flat role in the book.	Depressed Weak Emotional Calm Kind Crazy Suicidal
Laertes	Laertes is used as a foil for hamlet, being the son of polonious and the brother of ophelia, he later seeks revenge against hamlet for murdering his father.	His significance is that he played as a direcr foil for Hamlet and represented everything that hamlet did not go to do such as getting revenge against the death of his father and having a certain love for Ophelia that he never questioned.	Brave Determined Vengeful Impulsive livid
Ghost	The ghost in Hamlet is said to have been the ghost of Hamlet's father. He professes to Hamlet that he was murdered by his own brother and tells Hamlet to vow revenge against Claudius.	His significance is that we really dont know whether he exists or not, and it plays a role in determining whether hamlet is mad. He tells Hamlet of the tradgedy that has occurred while he was in college and has Hamlet vow revenge against claudius	Mysterious Dead Vengeful unknown





<p>Setting</p>	<p>Significance of the opening scene</p>
<p>The setting in the book is in Elsinore, Denmark in the Kings Castle around the time 1589 at which the book was to have existed. We also see England and Norway used in the book to describe Hamlets journey with Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, and Norway to describe the battle between them and Denmark along with the description of Fortinbras. We can also use the setting of out at sea where Hamlet described being attacked by the pirates and that where he supposedly lost Rosencrantz and Guildenstern. The setting of the story changes from the castle in which majority of the events occurred to the graveyard scene where Hamlet is holding the skull, and even the court where Hamlet and Laertes Battled.</p>	<p>The opening scene begins with the guards protecting the kings bed, it foreshadows the major event that will occur later on in the book which is the men seeing the ghost which is said to look like the late king Hamlet. This plays a major significant role in explaining and foreshadowing the events that will occur along with answers many of the questions that were asked throughout the book. The opening scene was the main scene in which we can get a brief idea of what will happen with the ghost and how he plays a significant role in making this story what it is. If the men had not seen the ghost, then we would not have enough information to make assumptions of what may happen and we might've never known what was occurring nevertheless Hamlet would not have known which wrecks the story.</p>
<p>Symbols</p>	<p>Significance of ending/closing scene</p>
<p><u>Yoricks Skull</u>: Yoricks skull in the book had once been a jester. This symbol signifies that whether high or low class you die the same way and end up in the same area just like Yorick had. The skull symbolizes death. (Pg. 270-272) Hamlet and Horatio converse about death and how we all die the same way using the Alexander the Great Example. "Do you think Alexander the Great look like this in the earth? Just the same. And Smelled so? Exactly my Lord." (272)</p> <p><u>Ophelias Flowers</u>: Ophelia flowers represented characteristics of King Claudius and Queen Gertrude. As Ophelia was said to have been mad, she carried many different flowers in which she presented to the king and queen. "There's fennel for you and columbines. There's rue for you... There's a daisy, I would give you some violets but they withered all when my father died." (238). Columbines were identified with unfaithfulness, daisies represented unrequited love, and Violets represented the faithfulness that neither of the royals had.</p>	<p>Since the story is a tragedy we know that the end of the story is going to involve death and that is exactly what happened. All the characters including Hamlet and Claudius died. If it weren't for Gertrude drinking the wine, Hamlet would have been dead and Claudius would have stayed in power, however since she did drink the poisoned wine, she died and led on to the death of other characters and later the power of Fortinbras becoming king of Denmark.</p>
	<p>Old AP Questions</p> <p>2001- Madness. The student is to describe madness and explain its significance to the work as a whole.</p> <p>2002- Moral Ambiguity. The student is to choose a novel and describe how a character in the book is morally ambiguous and how it is significant to the work as a whole.</p> <p>2008- Foil. The student is to pick a work and analyze how the relationship between the minor and the major character illuminates the meaning of a work.</p> <p>2009- Symbolism. The student is to choose a symbol and describe how it functions in the work and with the characters of the story.</p>
<p>Possible Themes</p>	





Love Vs. Hate: throughout the book we see many instances in which the characters deal with love and hate especially Hamlet who was not able to make up his mind of whether he loves Ophelia or not. The author is trying to show the relationship between love and hate and how sometimes love comes with consequences such as death. The theme love vs. hate plays a role in helping the reader understand many of the relationships between the characters. One possible example could be Queen Gertrude's love towards King Hamlet. Did she really love him like she said, or did she really hate him and possibly want him gone, especially since she married his own brother.

Thought Vs. Action: our thoughts and our actions are very different. The theme shows that sometimes what we want or think to do doesn't work with our actions. Hamlet thought he wanted to get revenge against Claudius, however he kept holding back and really didn't know what to do. Did he really even want to get revenge or was he just saying that? Shakespeare was trying to present the reader with the fact that not everything we think we want to is going to happen. Our human nature shows that many of the ideas we think don't always turn out the way we think them to be and this plays a role in the characters' choices.

Revenge: Revenge is absolutely important in the book. We see many people vowing revenge against one another which include Hamlet vowing revenge against Claudius for murdering his father and Laertes vowing revenge for the same reasons. We also see how revenge sometimes leads to bad decisions which include Hamlet accidentally killing Polonius. Shakespeare was trying to say and show the reader that revenge is not always a good thing. He might also be showing us that revenge isn't necessary if it jeopardizes everything you've done in life and your life itself.

