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| **HAMLET: Act Two Assignment** |
| **FILM INTERPRETATION** |
| *You have been chosen to direct this act. Explain how you would interpret the ANY ONE OF following scenes on film. BE SPECIFIC! Where would you set it? How would you film it to show your interpretation? What actions/movements would you ask of your actors to show your interpretation?* |
| *Area needing direction* | *Things to consider* |
| **Gertrude and Claudius’ reaction to Polonius’ Theory** | Do either of them, or both believe that Hamlet is in love? Enthusiastic or reluctant to follow Polunius’s plans? Are their reactions different? |
| **Rosencrantz and Guildenstern**  | Are they actually concerned about Hamlet, or are they just in it for their own profit? Do they both feel the same |
| **Hamlet’s final speech in act 2**  | How is he feeling about himself here- Angry? Sad? Disgusted? Is he excited about his plan? Nervous? Manic? |
| **Polonius** | Is he right to be concerned about his son or is he just controlling? Is he a bumbling fool, or is there a dangerous edge to him? |
| **Hamlet’s response to the players**  | Why is he so pleased to see them- for pleasure, or for his plan? How does he feel about theatre/actors? Is he in awe, like a fan, or does he feel like one of them? |

**Questions:**

1. What is Reynaldo’s task in Paris?
2. Explain what Polonius means when he says “by indirections find directions out.” (2.1.66)
3. What scared Ophelia in scene 1?
4. Why did Rosencrantz and Guildenstern come to Denmark?
5. What request does Voltemand bring from Fortinbras?
6. What is Polonius’ plan for proving the cause of Hamlet’s madness?
7. What does Hamlet reveal to Rosencrantz and Guildenstern? What does he hide?
8. Whose arrival cheers Hamlet up?
9. There is a significant difference between Hamlet and Polonius’ response to the actors; what character differences was Shakespeare trying to illuminate in these responses?
10. What does Hamlet decide to do at the end of this act?

**THEME/IMAGE**

Appearance vs Reality Fate Insanity Great Chain of Being Disease Imagery

*Make a list of 5-8 (total) important references of the main theme/image patterns, and briefly explain the context and/or meaning. You do not need to cover all five topics- any combination is fine. Here is one example:*

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| Idea | Lines  | Quotation | Context |
| Appearance vs Reality  | 1.3.78-80 | “This above all, to thine own self be true/And it must follow as the night the day/Thou canst not be false to any man.” | Polonius is speaking to Laertes. He is emphasizing the importance of being free of hypocrisy- no gap between appearance and reality. This is ironic, because Polonius himself is such a hypocrite. |