

Hand Out no – 2

Name: _____ Grade: 6 Subject: English Literature

Teacher: Farhana Nadia Date: _____

Hamlet**Q/A**

1. Why did Hamlet ask the group of actors to act out a play in front of the king Claudius and Gertrude?

Ans: Hearing the horror story from the spirit of the king, Hamlet decided to take revenge against his uncle Claudius. But as there was no proof for this he made a plan. He also wanted to be sure that if his uncle was the real murderer or not. He found a group of actors to play and in the play there would be a scene where a man commits a murder by pouring poison into the victim's ears. He wanted to find the reaction of his uncle---whom Hamlet was suspecting.

2. Why did Hamlet not kill Claudius when he found him alone?

Ans: Hamlet decided to act out a play by a group of actors to see the reaction of Claudius. Then he eagerly waited for the proof of his father's real murderer. So when the play was going out and the murder scene came, he saw that the king rose up and rushed out of the room. Hamlet too followed to avenge his father's death but when he entered the room he found the king was lost in prayer. Hamlet was about to draw his sword but he thought if he killed him at that moment his soul would go to Heaven after death and he did not want that. For this reason Hamlet did not kill Claudius when he found him alone.

3. How did Polonius's death come about and what happened to Ophelia?

Ans: When the actors were acting the murder scene, Claudius rose up and left the room. Hamlet too followed him and saw him on his knees and he left. But on the same day Queen Gertrude asked Hamlet to meet with her and she also asked Polonius to hide behind a curtain before Hamlet's arrival. During the conversation with his mother, Hamlet became angry and fearing for her own safety she called out for help. Polonius then hidden behind the curtain called out Hamlet. But hamlet thought that it was the king and stabbed him with his sword. Thus Polonius fell into death and his daughter Ophelia--- was so distraught by her father's death that she began to lose her mind. She started giving away flowers to the ladies of the court and she sang songs of love and death. At the end Ophelia tragically drowned in the river and died.

4. To what extent was Hamlet responsible for Laertes's death?

Ans: After the funeral of Ophelia, Laertes sent a messenger to Hamlet for a friendly fencing match and he decided to accept the challenge. According to the plan, Laertes poisoned his sword and when the fighting started Laertes wounded Hamlet with his poisoned sword. And few minutes later. Without knowing the plan, Hamlet grabbed hold of Laertes's sword and wounded him. So Hamlet wounded him just for fighting and he actually didn't know about the poisoned sword. So Hamlet was not responsible for his own death and he was killed by his own treachery.

5. Who was responsible for the death of Queen Gertrude and King Claudius?

Ans: During the fencing match of Hamlet and Laertes, King Claudius served a poisoned wine to take revenge against Hamlet. Then the Queen Gertrude without knowing anything drank the poisoned wine and she died. Again when Hamlet heard about the poisoned sword from Laertes he at once grabbed it and stabbed Claudius to death by that poisoned sword. So it can be said that they themselves were responsible for their death