

Study Guide Questions – ACT THREE

As you read the play, answer the following questions. Some of the questions will ask you simple questions about what is happening in the play, while others will ask you to think deeper and explore the text’s meaning.

Act III, Scene I -----

1. Is Ophelia wrong to cooperate with Claudius and Polonius? Why or Why not?

2. Put the first sentence of Hamlet’s fourth soliloquy into your own words.

Hamlet: *“To be, or not to be, that is the question...”*
 (53).

Your Words:

3. According to Hamlet, what would make a person want to avoid death?

Act III, Scene II -----

Character Description:

Player King	
Player Queen	
Lucianus	

4. What directives does Hamlet give the actors? Why?

5. Explain Hamlet’s demeanor with his mother and Ophelia.

6. Why are the actors unable to complete the show?
7. Why is this significant?
8. Look at Hamlet's fifth soliloquy (*pg. 68*). What is Hamlet determined to do and not to do to Gertrude?

Act III, Scene III & IV -----

9. In Hamlet's sixth soliloquy (*pg. 70-71*), he is presented with the perfect opportunity for revenge on Claudius. Why does Hamlet hesitate and not kill Claudius?
10. In his soliloquy, how does Hamlet contrast the murder of King Hamlet, his father, with this opportunity to kill Claudius?
11. What happens to Polonius?
12. Does Polonius deserve what happens to him? Why or Why not?

13. How does this event (*what happened to Polonius*) affect/change Hamlet?

14. Is Hamlet's brutal treatment of his mother justifiable? Why?

15. Does Gertrude appear to have played a role in King Hamlet's murder?

16. Why does the Ghost reappear?

Character Transformation: How has the characters listed below evolved since this first time you met them.

King Claudius	
Polonius	
Queen Gertrude	
Polonius	
Ophelia	
Rosencrantz	
Guildenstern	
Hamlet	