

Hamlet RQ Act 2 Scene 1 & 2

1. How much time has passed between Act 1 and Act 2? How do you know?

2. What is Polonius telling Reynaldo to do? What does this tell up about Polonius and his way of thinking and acting?

3. Why is Ophelia so upset when she enters? What has happened to her? Does Hamlet's appearance as a madman come as a surprise after what we last heard him say?

4. Why would he appear in this sort of madness to her? Is there any possibility he really *is* a distracted lover responding to Ophelia's apparent rejection of him?

5. How well has Ophelia obeyed her father's orders?

4. What is Polonius' response to what Ophelia tells him? Where are they going?

2.2

1. Why have Rosencrantz and Guildenstern come to court? What is their relation to Hamlet?

2. What use does Claudius have for Rosencrantz and Guildenstern? Does this remind you of Polonius' use for Reynaldo? Are there any significant differences?

3. We've now had several different explanations of Hamlet's madness: love, his father's death, and Gertrude's hasty marriage. Are people content with these explanations? Are you?

4. What results have come from Cornelius' and Voltmand's trip to Norway? Has Claudius' use of diplomacy rather than war been justified? What will Fortinbras be doing next?

5. How effective is Polonius as a bearer of news? How convinced are Claudius and Gertrude that Polonius has found the answer?

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6. Immediately following the discussion of the plan, Hamlet appears. Wouldn't this be a good time to try out the plan? Do they?

7. How does Hamlet behave when he enters? Does Polonius think he is mad? Is this the way we would expect Hamlet to act after Ophelia's description of his affection in Act One Scene 2?

9. Why are the players traveling? What has been going on in the city?

12. What play does Hamlet want the players to play? What does he want to do to the play?

13. Read Hamlet's third soliloquy carefully Act Two Scene Two. **How does he use the player's response to show how different his own position is?** Is the comparison justified by what we have seen happen in the play?

14. **He complains that he hasn't acted on his vengeance. Why hasn't he?** Why does he need the play? What will he learn from it?