

Study Guide

Hamlet by Kenneth Branagh

This handout is to use for note taking while watching the movie. Your final study guide should be typed or neatly handwritten on separate sheets of paper; use complete sentences, proper grammar/mechanics, and proper citation. Also, this handout should be filled in during your watching of the movie and submitted with your final draft of the study guide.

Part I: Quotations from the movie of Hamlet. 1.) Name the character who says each quote and discuss how the quote leads us to better understand the character. (Why does the character say this? How is the character feeling? What is important to the character?) 2.) Explain which theme relates to the quote.

1.) "Fear it, Ophelia, fear it, my dear sister/
And keep you in the rear of your affection/
Out of the shot and danger of desire."

2.) "This above all: to thine ownself be true."

3.) "Revenge his foul and most unnatural murder."

4.) "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio,
Than are dreamt of in your philosophy."

5.) "Now I am alone./ What a rogue and peasant slave am I."

Part II.) Scene analysis. Answer the following questions in detail:

1.) Do you think the scene is necessary to better understand and appreciate the play? Explain.

2.) What theme(s) are highlighted?

3.) What emotions do the characters express? How do the characters react?

4.) How would you create this scene? (music, visual effects etc.)

1.) The changing of the guards:

2.) The castle scene with Hamlet mourning over his father's death:

3.) Hamlet's conversation with Horatio about his father:

4.) Ophelia reading the love letter from Hamlet:

5.) Hamlet's reaction to Ophelia (after he asks, "Where's your father?")

6.) The reenactment of the play:

7.) The bedroom scene with Hamlet and his mother:

8.) Ophelia's madness:

Part III: Comparing characters: Choose three major characters;. What is the character like in each movie? How is the character portrayed? Support your response with specific examples. You may want to discuss the character's depth of emotion, physical appearance, body language, and way of interacting with other characters.

Character one:

Character two:

Character three:

Part IV: What are the major differences in how the themes of the play are presented compared to how you picture them in your mind when we read? Is Shakespeare's intended purpose (as you see his purpose) fulfilled in each movie version? Explain. Ten sentences minimum.