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## WEEK 11

"The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark" is one of William Shakespeare's most famous plays and is considered a masterpiece of English literature. The play explores themes of revenge, madness, betrayal, and the consequences of inaction. Hamlet, the protagonist, is a complex and fascinating character who struggles with his own mortality and the morality of revenge.

Act 3 is considered the turning point of the play, where Hamlet's plan for revenge becomes more focused and intense. The "play within a play" scene is a significant moment that reveals Claudius's guilt and sets the stage for the final acts of the play.

- Hamlet is still struggling with his father's death and his mother's hasty marriage to his uncle Claudius. He decides to stage a play called "The Murder of Gonzago" in which the plot is similar to his father's murder. He hopes to see Claudius's reaction to the play and prove his guilt. During the play, Hamlet confronts his mother and accidentally kills Polonius, mistaking him for Claudius. Hamlet is sent away to England.

Act 4 is full of tragedy and further complicates the plot. Ophelia's descent into madness and death, as well as Laertes's desire for revenge, add to the mounting tension and sense of impending doom.

- After Polonius's death, Ophelia becomes mentally unstable and ultimately dies. Laertes, Ophelia's brother, returns to Denmark and seeks revenge against Hamlet, whom he holds responsible for his sister's death. Claudius conspires with Laertes to kill Hamlet by challenging him to a duel with a poisoned sword

Act 5 is the climactic finale of the play, where all the loose ends are tied up, and the consequences of the characters' actions are revealed. The final scenes are tragic and poignant,

with several characters meeting their demise. The ending of the play is bittersweet, as Hamlet achieves his revenge but at great cost.

- In the final act, Hamlet returns to Denmark and confronts Laertes in the duel. During the fight, both are fatally wounded by the poisoned sword. Before he dies, Hamlet kills Claudius and makes peace with Laertes. Horatio, Hamlet's close friend, tries to kill himself out of grief but is stopped by Hamlet's dying words. Hamlet dies, and the play ends with Fortinbras, the prince of Norway, taking over the throne of Denmark.

Overall, "Hamlet" is a powerful and timeless work of literature that continues to captivate and resonate with audiences to this day. Its exploration of human emotions and motivations, as well as its themes of justice, morality, and the human condition, make it a classic of world literature.