

Kara Barton Reading 22

1. In this act the theme of madness can be seen in the person of Ophelia she has gone mad because of the rejection of Hamlet and the death of her father. Both Hamlet and Ophelia have gone mad because of the deaths of their fathers. Ophelia's madness is real.
2. Polonius is killed because he is spying. Claudius send spies to watch over Hamlet, he is also plotting his death when he gets to England. When this doesn't work Claudius plots to kill Hamlet in a sword fight and with poison.
3. Deception is seen when Claudius and Laertes plan to kill Hamlet by pretending to have a fencing competition, but they will use a sharp sword laced in poison or get Hamlet to drink poison.
4. We see the theme of revenge in that Laertes wants revenge for the death of his father. He wants to kill Hamlet. Hamlet is also still wanting revenge for his father.

Reading 23

1. The grave digger scene seems to be adding some comedy to the tragedy. *The fact that grave digging is a serious job because it involves death, but the grave diggers are making jokes and singing.* There is also the purpose in that the grave digger has been around since the time of Hamlet's dad. He tells a story of the day Hamlet was born and so we see the beginning of Hamlet's life. *Shakespeare wants to remind us that death surrounds us, and it shows how Hamlet's life will go to the grave.*
2. Poison was a theme in the play beginning with Hamlet's father who had poison poured in his ear. Claudius and Laertes also plan to kill Hamlet with poison but their plan backfires and Gertude drink's the poison and both Claudius and Laertes are killed by the poison sword. Hamlet is also killed with the poisoned sword.
3. I think Hamlet's madness was both real and fake. There were many times when Hamlet made sense and where he seemed to still be able to think. He was also still able to pursue revenge. But I also think that his grief caused him to act a little crazy. Sometimes when we pretend something for a long time it becomes more real.
4. The theme of vengeance played out in that nobody got what they wanted the way that they planned. Hamlet was successful in killing Claudius, but he also dies. Laertes is successful in killing Hamlet, but he also dies. Fortinbras also avenges his father because everyone else is dead and so he takes over as leader.

Reading 24

1. In the first act we see eavesdropping in the servant overhears Claudio tell of his love of Hero. Borachio also overheard this news.
2. One of the eavesdroppers misunderstood the message they heard. Because of this Leonato thinks that Don Pedro is in love with Hero and tells her but really it is Claudio who loves her.