

***Hamlet***

**Act III**

Study questions

**Scene 1:**

1. What part does Ophelia play in the plan of Polonius and the King? What is her reaction to the way Hamlet speaks to her?
2. How does Claudius's opinion of Hamlet's condition differ from Ophelia's? To what in Hamlet's speeches is Claudius sensitive that Ophelia is not?
3. What new move does Polonius suggest?

**Scene 2:**

4. What does Hamlet expect of Horatio? How does the way he speaks to him differ from the manner in which he speaks to everyone else?
5. Describe the dumb show. Describe both Hamlet's and Claudius's actions from the beginning of the play within the play to its end.

**Scene 3:**

6. What steps does Claudius take to rid himself of Hamlet?
7. Why does Hamlet hesitate to kill Claudius when Claudius is at prayer?

**Scene 4:**

8. Whom does Hamlet think he is stabbing when he strikes through the curtain?
9. What results from Hamlet's interview with Gertrude?
10. What new part of the King's plan comes to the surface at the end of the scene?