***Hamlet* – Reading Schedule**

***Reading is DUE on the date listed.*** *I reserve the right to move these dates back.*

Weds, Dec. 14th – ACT 2 (17 pgs)

Mon, Dec. 19th – ACT 3 (31 pgs)

Weds, Jan. 11th – ACT 4 (23 pgs)

Weds, Jan. 18th – ACT 5 (24 pgs)

For each Act, “annotate” or take notes looking for:

* Characterization and character changes
* Relationship development
* Running Topics: Insanity / Revenge / Appearances vs. Reality / Sex / Lies / Deceit / Mortality / Death

***Also*** *answer the following questions by the above DUE date. Be sure you EXPLAIN your reasoning using evidence from the text where appropriate.*

**ACT 1**

A1S2 – How would you characterize Hamlet? Describe the relationship he seems to have with his uncle and mother.

A1S3 – *(*SKIP 56-94: *Polonius gives fatherly advice to Laertes. His “most pertinent” advice is “to thine own self be true”)*

* According to Laertes and Polonius, what type of girl is Ophelia & why should she be wary of Hamlet?

A1S4 – Would you describe Hamlet as rational or rash? How does your view compare to the view of his friends?

A1S5 – Make note of the ways in which the ghost try to convince Hamlet to seek revenge? Mark lines/tactics.

**ACT 2**

A2S1 – *(*SKIP lines 1-83: *Polonius doesn’t trust his children so gets Reynaldo to spy on Laertes in France and report back what he’s doing.)*

* Describe Hamlet’s behavior and appearance. What is significant about it and/or what does it suggest?

A2S2 – *(*SKIP lines 61-81*: We learn that Claudius is apparently a good negotiator. His letter to the king of Norway worked…Young Fortinbras won’t attack Denmark anymore, and simply wishes to march ACROSS Denmark to attack Poland instead. Claudius thinks this sounds fine and allows it to happen. / and / SKIP lines 404-575: Hamlet messes with R & G telling them he is “but mad north-north-west”, meaning he is only crazy sometimes. Then Polonius shows up and they insult each other. Then a group of players (actors) show up and Hamlet has them put on an impromptu play, during which one of the actors cries …acting… Then Hamlet asks the actors to put on a play for the entire court, in which he wants to include several of his own lines. Hamlet’s soliloquy that begins on line 576 is a response to all this.)*

* How does the king betray his true feelings about Hamlet in this scene?

**ACT 3**

A3S1 – Here is the famous “To be or not to be” soliloquy. What is the overall message of this soliloquy and what does it portray about Hamlet’s current mental state?

A3S2 – *(*SKIP lines 1-97: *Like a jerk, Hamlet gives acting advice to the actors, and* SKIP lines 145-253*: This is the play within a play where the actors act out a scene similar to how the ghost claims Claudius killed him, and* SKIP lines 200-end: *Hamlet messes with R & G, then he agrees to go see his mother, who is upset with him following the play fiasco.)*

* Mark all of Hamlet’s inappropriate jokes to Ophelia and his “subtle” slams on his mother and Claudius.

A3S3 - According to Claudius, why can’t he rightfully ask for forgiveness from God?

A3S4 – According to Hamlet, how does Claudius compare to Hamlet’s father?

**ACT 4**

A4S1 – How does the king betray his true fears and feelings about Hamlet once again?

A4S2-3 – Mark all of Hamlet’s inappropriate jokes and insults in your playbook.

A4S4 – *(*SKIP lines 1-34: *On his way to the ship that will take him to England, Hamlet sees Fortinbras’ army crossing Denmark. His soliloquy is in response to this scene.)*

* Summarize the soliloquy in one or two sentences.

A4S5 – Mark ironic lines/word choices of Claudius & Laertes.

A4S6 (SKIP the whole thing: *Hamlet writes a letter to Horatio in which he tells him that the ship he was on was captured by pirates, Hamlet sent R & G off to England alone, and Hamlet convinced the pirates to bring him back to Denmark)*

A4S7 – Mark all the ways Claudius tries to convince Laertes to revenge.

**ACT 5**

A5S1 – What are Hamlet’s “new” thoughts on death?

A5S2 – (SKIP lines 137-178: *Hamlet makes fun of Osric*)

* How much responsibility does Hamlet accept for everything he’s done?