



### Scene 1 – Hamlet and Ophelia / “To be or not to be”

•Summary: Claudius and Polonius spy on Hamlet during his encounter with Ophelia. Hamlet delivers his famous “To be or not to be” soliloquy, reflecting on life, death, and the fear of the unknown. When Hamlet meets Ophelia, he harshly rejects her, telling her to “Get thee to a nunnery,” showing a mix of anger, grief, and strategy. Claudius begins to fear Hamlet’s growing threat.

•Key Quote: “To be, or not to be: that is the question.” – Hamlet

•Significance & Analysis: Explores Hamlet’s inner conflict, philosophical depth, and fear of death. It also highlights themes of mortality, indecision, and appearance vs. reality. The scene demonstrates Hamlet’s emotional complexity and sets up the tension with Claudius.

### Scene 2 – The Play Within the Play (“The Mousetrap”)

•**Summary:** Hamlet gives the players instructions to act naturally. During the performance of *The Murder of Gonzago*, a king is poisoned in the ear — exactly how Claudius murdered King Hamlet. When Claudius suddenly stands up and cries, “Give me some light: away!”, everyone realizes he is guilty. Hamlet and Horatio are now sure the Ghost told the truth. So, Claudius reacts guiltily to the murder scene that mirrors King Hamlet’s death. Hamlet is thrilled, and Horatio confirms the King’s reaction proves his guilt.

•**Key Quote:** “Give me some light: away!” – Claudius

•**Significance & Analysis:** Claudius's reaction confirms his guilt and proves Hamlet's suspicions. The scene shows how theatre reveals truth and exposes hidden corruption.

### **Scene 3 – Claudius Prays / Hamlet's Missed Opportunity**

•**Summary:** Claudius attempts to pray, admitting guilt but struggling to repent sincerely. Hamlet sees him vulnerable but refrains from killing him, fearing it would send Claudius's soul to heaven.

•**Key Quote:** "My words fly up, my thoughts remain below." – Claudius

•**Significance & Analysis:** Reveals Claudius's moral weakness and Hamlet's overthinking. Shows the tension between action and morality. Highlights Hamlet's obsession with justice rather than impulsive revenge, deepening his internal struggle.

### **Scene 4 – Hamlet Confronts Gertrude / Polonius's Death**

•**Summary:** Hamlet confronts Gertrude about her hasty marriage. Polonius hides behind the arras and is killed by Hamlet, who mistakes him for Claudius. The Ghost appears, reminding Hamlet of his purpose and urging him to spare Gertrude.

•**Key Quote:** "O Hamlet, speak no more! / Thou turn'st mine eyes into my very soul." – Gertrude

•**Significance & Analysis:** Key turning point: Hamlet commits murder. Explores mother-son relationships, moral corruption, and the consequences of impulsive action. Shows Hamlet's continued struggle between duty, revenge, and morality.



## **Important Speeches – Speaker and Addressee**

### **1. “To be, or not to be: that is the question.”**

**Speaker:** Hamlet

**Addressee:** Himself (soliloquy)

Act III, Scene 1

Analysis: Hamlet wonders if it is better to live or die. He thinks about life's pain and the fear of what comes after death. This shows his deep sadness and fear of the unknown. It's one of Shakespeare's most famous reflections on life and mortality.

### **2. “Get thee to a nunnery.”**

**Speaker:** Hamlet

**Addressee:** Ophelia

Act III, Scene 1

Analysis: Hamlet tells Ophelia to go to a convent. He seems angry and cruel, but his words also show pain and mistrust of women after his mother's betrayal. This moment confuses Ophelia and shows Hamlet's emotional conflict and growing madness (real or acted).

### **3. “Give me some light: away!”**

**Speaker:** Claudius

**Addressee:** Attendants in the hall (during the play scene)

## Act III, Scene 2

Analysis: Claudius shouts this after watching the murder scene that looks like the way he killed King Hamlet. His reaction proves his guilt. This line marks the moment Hamlet and Horatio confirm the Ghost was telling the truth.

### 4. “My words fly up, my thoughts remain below.”

**Speaker:** Claudius

**Addressee:** Himself (soliloquy)

## Act III, Scene 3

Analysis: Claudius tries to pray but admits he cannot truly repent because he still wants his crown and queen. His prayer is empty. This shows his hypocrisy and guilt. It also explains why Hamlet’s chance for revenge is lost here.

### 6. “I took thee for thy better.”

**Speaker:** Hamlet

**Addressee:** Polonius (after killing him)

## Act III, Scene 4

Analysis: After stabbing through the curtain, Hamlet realizes he killed Polonius by mistake. This line shows his regret and how his quick, angry action leads to tragedy. It marks the start of his downfall.

## Major Themes in Act 2



### 1-Revenge

•**Analysis:** Hamlet gets closer to taking revenge for his father's murder, but he still struggles with doubt and morality. He tests Claudius's guilt through the play ("The Mousetrap"), confirming that the Ghost was truthful. However, even after knowing the truth, Hamlet does not act immediately. When he finds Claudius praying, he refuses to kill him, thinking it would send his soul to heaven. This shows that Hamlet wants not just revenge, but perfect revenge — he wants Claudius to suffer spiritually as well as physically.

•**Importance:** The theme of revenge in Act III is important because it shows:

1-Hamlet's inner conflict between action and morality.

2-How thinking too much delays justice.

3-That revenge leads to guilt and tragedy — Claudius feels guilty, and Hamlet's attempt for justice only causes more death (Polonius, Ophelia, etc.).

### 2. Theatre and Reality

•**Analysis:** *The Mousetrap play (The Murder of Gonzago)* reveals the power of theatre to mirror reality and find truth. Hamlet uses drama as a tool of investigation.

•**Importance:** This theme matters because it shows art's role in society as a mirror of truth. Shakespeare makes theatre not just entertainment but a weapon to challenge kings and reveal hidden sins.