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Accelerated English 12

Literary Analysis Research Paper/Expanded Outline

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I. Introduction

- A. In William Shakespeare's play, *Hamlet*, Horatio is the only loyal friend Hamlet can rely on, showing that not having enough support from friends can cause one to have an unstable mind.
- B. Horatio is Hamlet's only true friend.
- C. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern random arrival is not just for a casual visit.
- D. Ophelia is not the source of Hamlet's madness but her betrayal hurts him.

II. As Hamlet's only true friend Horatio is a rare type of person to find; his friendship with Hamlet is honest and constant.

A. Neo-Platonic Relationship

- 1. Neo-Platonic -... all existence emanates and with which an individual soul can mystically unit
- 2. "I am glad to see you well. Horatio – or I do forget myself!" (I.2.167)
- 3. "For Hamlet to forget Horatio, he would have to forget himself. Hamlet and Horatio are one" (Vera 7).

B. Does not want "pleasure or profit;" individual

- 1. Scholar –has his own thoughts and reason
- 2. Thinks about Hamlet's feelings
- 3. Does not expect anything in return
- 4. Not "passion's slave"

III. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern's random arrival to Denmark is a forewarning to Hamlet, showing that they are not just here for a casual visit of their childhood friend.

A. True Meaning of their names

- 1. rose- passion ornamental; guild- association of men join in "convenience," cover or partially with thin layer of gold
- 2. "call me what instrument you will, though you can /fret me you cannot play upon me" (III.2.401-2).
- 3. "Average friendship is merely the result of pleasure or profit, by public or private needs" (Montaigne 136).

B. Spellbound by authority

- 1. Sent by king and queen to spy on hamlet; admits right away

2. Not individuals- always referred to as a pair
 3. True allegiance is with Claudius because of his rank in Denmark
- IV. Ophelia's unrequited love may not have been the core of Hamlet's madness, although her betrayal hurts him more than she can imagine
- A. Their love
 1. Hugs here with relief until he senses something wrong
 2. "Ay, truly, for the power of beauty will sooner transform honesty from what it is to a bawd than the force of honesty can translate beauty into his likeness" (III.1.121-124).
 3. Feels he shouldn't have been born
 - B. Betrayal and lying
 1. Lied where Polonius was
 2. Though he could confine in her because he did love her
 3. "Ophelia is a younger edition of the unthinking Queen who needs the "mirror" Hamlet provides to see her own situation" (Wagner 94).
- V. Conclusion

"Hamlet's tragic error is not his discarding of his former friends, it is ever trusting passion over reason in the first place" (Vera 11-12).