HAMLET 1.2

Teaching Notes for a Close Reading Exercise

1. Vocabulary

Current words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | *line* | *word* |
| 1 | 2 | green |
| 2 | 2 | befit |
| 3 | 11 | auspicious |
| 4 | 13 | dole |
| 5 | 81 | visage |
| 6 | 86 | trappings |
| 7 | 91 | filial |
| 8 | 107 | unprevailing |
| 9 | 114 | retrograde |
| 10 | 125 | jocund |
| 11 | 132 | canon |
| 12 | 195 | marvel |
| 13 | 204 | truncheon |
| 14 | 231 | countenance |



Obsolete words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | *line* | *word* |
| 1 | 20 | disjoint |
| 2 | 32 | levies |
| 3 | 32 | lists |
| 4 | 33 | subject |
| 5 | 38 | delated |
| 6 | 68 | nighted |
| 7 | 79 | suspiration |
| 8 | 115 | beseech |
| 9 | 127 | bruit |
| 10 | 141 | beteem |
| 11 | 155 | galled |
| 12 | 168 | in faith |
| 13 | 177 | I prithee |
| 14 | 147\* | or ere/ever |
| 15 | 184\* | methinks |
| 16 | 189 | yesternight |
| 17 | 193 | attent |
| 18 | 200 | cap-a-pé |
| 19 | 229 | beaver |
| 19 | 243 | perchance |
| 20 | 248 | tenable |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

Danger words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | *line* | *word* |
| 1 | 8 | sometime |
| 2 | 8 | sister |
| 3 | 14 | barred |
| 4 | 39 | commend |
| 5 | 50 | dread |
| 6 | 51 | leave (n.) |
| 7 | 62 | fair |
| 8 | 74 | common |
| 9 | 92 | obsequious |
| 10 | 109 | immediate |
| 11 | 137 | merely |
| 12 | 167 | 'good even' |
| 13 | 207 | dreadful |
| 14 | 209 | deliver |
| 15 | 238 | tell |
| 16 | 244 | person |

1. Familiar and Formal Address

Characters who use formal address:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Speaker* |  | *addressed* | *form* | *line* |
| King | to | assembly | your | 15 |
| King | to | assembly | you | 17 |
| King | to | Cor & Volt | you | 34 |
| King | to | Cor & Volt | you | 36 |
| King | to | Cor & Volt | your | 39 |
| King | to | Cor & Volt | your | 39 |
| King | to | Laertes | you | 42, 43, 44, 45 |
| Laertes | to | King | your | 51, 53, 56 |
| King | to | Laertes | you | 57, 57 |
| Polonius | to | King | you | 61 |
| King | to | Hamlet | you | 66 |
| King | to | Hamlet | your | 87, 88, 89, 112 |
| King | to | Hamlet | you | 89, 106, 109, 12, 115, 115 |
| Hamlet | to | Queen | you | 120 |
| Hamlet | to | Horatio | you | 160 |
| Horatio | to | Hamlet | your | 160 |
| Horatio | to | Hamlet | your | 162 |
| Hamlet | to | Horatio | you | 163, 164 |
| Hamlet | to | Horatio | you | 167, 168 |
| Hamlet | to | Horatio | your | 170, 172, 174 |
| Hamlet | to | Horatio | you | 171, 173, 175, 175 |
| Hamlet | to | Horatio | yourself | 173 |
| Horatio | to | Hamlet | your | 176 |
| Horatio | to | Hamlet | your | 191 |
| Horatio | to | Hamlet | your | 193 |
| Horatio | to | Hamlet | you | 195 |
| Horatio | to | Hamlet | your | 199 |
| Horatio | to | Hamlet | your | 211 |
| Hamlet | to | Horatio | you | 213 |
| Horatio | to | Hamlet | you | 223 |
| Hamlet | to | Horatio | you | 225 |
| Hamlet | to | Mar & Bar | you | 226 |
| Hamlet | to | Horatio | you | 228 |
| Hamlet | to | Horatio | you | 233 |
| Hamlet | to | Horatio | you | 235 |
| Hamlet | to | Horatio | you | 245, 246 |
| Hamlet | to | Group | your | 247, 250 |
| Hamlet | to | Group | you | 250, 252 |
| Group | to | Hamlet | your | 252 |
| Hamlet | to | Group | your | 253 |

Characters who use ‘familiar’ address:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Speaker* |  | *addressed* | *form* | *line* |
| King | to | Laertes | thou | 45 |
| King | to | Laertes | thy | 49 |
| King | to | Laertes | thou | 50 |
| King | to | Laertes | thy | 49 |
| King | to | Laertes | thine | 62 |
| King | to | Laertes | thy | 62 |
| King | to | Laertes | thy | 63 |
| King | to | Laertes | thy | 63 |
| Queen | to | Hamlet | thine | 68 |
| Queen | to | Hamlet | thy | 68 |
| Queen | to | Hamlet | thy | 70 |
| Queen | to | Hamlet | thy | 71 |
| Queen | to | Hamlet | thou | 72 |
| Queen | to | Hamlet | thee | 75 |
| Queen | to | Hamlet | thy | 118 |
| Queen | to | Hamlet | thee | 119 |
| Hamlet | to | "Frailty" | thy | 146 |

The exchange between Claudius and Laertes

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Speaker* |  | *addressed* | *form* | *line* |
| King | to | Laertes | you | 42, 43, 44, 45 |
| King | to | Laertes | thy | 45 |
| King | to | Laertes | thou | 45 |
| King | to | Laertes | thy | 46 |
| King | to | Laertes | thy | 49 |
| King | to | Laertes | thou | 50 |
| Laertes | to | King | your | 51, 53, 56 |
| King | to | Laertes | you | 57, 57 |
| Polonius | to | King | you | 61 |
| King | to | Laertes | thy | 62 |
| King | to | Laertes | thine | 62 |
| King | to | Laertes | thy | 63 |
| King | to | Laertes | thy | 63 |

Summary

The familiar forms are used only by the King on Laertes, by the Queen to Hamlet, and by Hamlet in apostrophe.

1. Prosody

The entire scene is in verse except for part of the exchange about the ghost. Lines to look at are:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Lines | 165-166 | Hamlet and Marcellus |
| Line | 190 | Hamlet’s question |
| Lines | 227-228 | Hamlet with Marcellus and Barnardo |
| Line | 230 | Hamlet’s question |
| Line | 232 | Hamlet’s question |
| Lines | 235-236 | Horatio and Hamlet’s question |
| Line | 238 | Marcello and Barnardo |

1. Shared Lines

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Line* | *Begun by* | *Ended by* |
| 50 | King | Laertes |
| 74 | Hamlet | Queen |
| 160 | Horatio | Hamlet |
| 185 | Horatio | Hamlet |
| 191 | Horatio | Hamlet |
| 195 | Horatio | Hamlet |
| 212 | Horatio | Hamlet |
| 214 | Hamlet | Horatio |
| 220 | Horatio | Hamlet |
| 225 | Hamlet | Mar & Bar |
| 226 | Hamlet | Mar & Bar |
| *Line* | *Begun by* | *Ended by* |
| 233 | Horatio | Hamlet |
| 234 | Horatio | Hamlet |
| 239 | Horatio | Hamlet |
| 241 | Horatio | Hamlet |
| 242 | Hamlet | Horatio |
| 252 | Hamlet | Group |

Line 226 is split three ways—begun and ended by Hamlet with an intervening speech by Marcellus and Barnardo.

1. Rhetorical Style

The organization of the King’s opening to the “court scene”

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Lines* | *Area* | *Topic* |
| 1-7 | Succession | Old Hamlet's death |
| 8-16 | Succession | Marriage |
| 17-25 | International | Norway's threat |
| 26-41 | International | The mission to Norway |
| 42-63 | The Court | Leartes's petition |
| 64-105 | Family | Hamlet's grief |
| 106-122 | Family | Hamlet as heir and son |
| 123-128 | Ending | The celebration |