



Hamlet Literary Circle Review

Act 1	Act 2	Act 3	Act 4	Act 5
Five scenes	Two scenes	Four scenes	Seven scenes	Two scenes

To complete this study guide:

1. Distribute the play's scenes equally among the members of your group.

Note: Scenes must be spread out among the group; each group member must have scenes from at least three different acts.

2. Read the chart that explains what information is needed in each row for each scene. Be sure to cite quotes from the play.
3. Record the act and scene above each chart before you complete it.

Act: _____ **Scene:** _____

Summary of Events	Provide a brief summary of the events in the scene. Summaries should provide all the most important details from the scene while being as concise as possible.
Conflict(s)/Resolution(s) Demonstrated through Characters and Interactions	Provide a description of the major interactions between characters in the scene. Explain the conflict that initiates the interaction and describe its resolution.
Important Quotes	Provide three properly cited quotations from the text that demonstrate the central action and conflicts in the scene.
Theme: Expression of Anxiety and Uncertainty	Provide a short but clear explanation that relates the various interactions to the theme of anxiety and uncertainty.

Act: _____ Scene: _____

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Answer Key

Sample Student Response

Act: 1 Scene: 3

<p>Summary of Events</p>	<p>Laertes is about to leave for France, but before he does, he warns his sister Ophelia about the dangers of falling in love with Prince Hamlet. Ophelia agrees to take Laertes's advice as long as he, too, behaves himself while away. Polonius, the siblings' father, comes to wish his son farewell and also offers him advice to act moderately in his affairs and to be true to himself.</p>
<p>Conflict(s)/Resolution(s) Demonstrated through Characters and Interactions</p>	<p>Laertes is worried his sister Ophelia will have her reputation stained or be hurt emotionally by Hamlet, so he offers her advice to stay away from him.</p> <p>Polonius is concerned about his family's and son's reputations. He wishes his son to represent him and the family properly and honorably while he is in France, so he offers Laertes advice to act moderately in all of his affairs.</p>
<p>Important Quotes</p>	<p>Laertes: "Perhaps he loves you now, / And now no soil nor cautel doth besmirch. / The virtue of his will, but you must fear. / His greatness weighed, his will is not his own[.]" (No Fear: 1.3.14–17)</p> <p>Ophelia: "I shall the effect of this good lesson keep / As watchman to my heart. But good my brother, / Do not, as some ungracious pastors do, / Show me the steep and thorny way to heaven / Whiles, like a puffed and reckless libertine, / Himself the primrose path of dalliance treads / And reckes not his own rede." (No Fear: 1.3.45–51)</p> <p>Polonius: "This above all: to thine own self be true, / And it must follow, as the night the day, / Thou canst not then be false to any man." (No Fear: 1.3.78–80)</p>
<p>Theme: Expression of Anxiety and Uncertainty</p>	<p>Shakespeare reveals that Hamlet may be romantically interested in Ophelia. Later in the play, Ophelia becomes a source of anxiety for Hamlet. In this scene, Laertes is concerned for Ophelia's virtue, and Polonius is anxious about his family's image and reputation. Laertes is concerned about the uncertain and, as he sees it, unlikely future of Ophelia and Hamlet as a couple. Polonius is uncertain about how his son may behave while abroad. These uncertainties cause each character anxiety and motivate each to give advice in this scene.</p>