I, iii

Setting – Description + two quotes

Characters – Description + two quotes

Motif – mysogeny – explanation + two quotes

Echoes – “incest” Weird relationship btwn Laertes and Ophelia echoes Claudius and Gertrude

* explanation + two quotes

I, iv

Setting (same group as I ii)

Characters

Theme - uncertainty of truth in a world of spiritual ambiguity/indecisiveness – explanation + two quotes

Motif – Ill Health of Denmark (“Something is rotten in the state of Denmark” Marcellus I, iv, 67

explanation + two quotes

“Hercules” – Significance to two comparisons thus far?

Ghost - truly Hamlet’s father’s spirit or an evil demon come from hell to tempt him toward destruction?

Important quote from yesterday…

HAMLET  
O, that this too too sullied flesh would melt,  
Thaw and resolve itself into a dew,  
Or that the Everlasting had not fixed  
His canon 'gainst self-slaughter! O God, God,  
How weary, stale, flat, and unprofitable  
Seem to me all the uses of this world!  
(1.2.133-138)

Hamlet is “moaning” about how depressed he is over his father's death and mom's remarriage, and wishing that his "flesh" would "melt"—i.e., that he'd die.

Elizabethan belief:

* the human body was made up of four basic elements, called humors: 1. phlegm, 2. blood, 3. yellow bile, and 4. black bile. (Hamlet seems to be suffering from what Elizabethans referred to as "melancholy," which was associated with too much "black bile" in the body.)

Results in…

* lethargy, irritability, distorted imagination, and so on. Basically "clinical depression" today.

Textual Note: "sullied flesh" vs "solid flesh." Solid flesh vs sullied flesh that has been soiled, stained, and contaminated by his mother’s incestuous relationship with his murderous uncle.

Beware….Watch for how Hamlet views women, sex, and gender roles!