

The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark

Act III: Compare and Contrast

Analyzing similarities and differences between various elements of a literary work can help the reader better understand the plot, characters, and conflict.

Using details from Act III, compare and contrast each of the following. The first one has been done for you.

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern VERSUS Horatio as friends to Hamlet

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern:

They claim to be Hamlet's friends, but they conspire against him with Claudius. They are hypocritical flatterers who are interested in gaining the king's favor.

Horatio:

He is a loyal and forthright friend to Hamlet. He is concerned about Hamlet's well-being and has proven that he is trustworthy.

The murder of Old Hamlet VERSUS the play, *The Mousetrap*

Murder of Old Hamlet:

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***The Mousetrap*:**

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Hamlet's opinion of his father VERSUS Hamlet's opinion of his mother

Hamlet's opinion of father:

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Hamlet's opinion of mother:

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The murder of Old Hamlet VERSUS the murder of Polonius

Murder of Old Hamlet:

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Murder of Polonius:

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FOLLOW-UP: Do each of the situations above help you understand character, plot, or conflict in the play? Explain how each element helps reveal the play's characters, plot, and/or conflicts.