***Hamlet* Character Study: Textual Analysis Exercise**

**Purpose: To strengthen your understanding of how Shakespeare uses language to communicate character traits and character relationships; to strengthen your analysis of the *Hamlet* character you have chosen.**

**Please do this as an individual assignment (though you may discuss with others and ask for help) and WRITE IN BLACK OR DARK BLUE INK or type your responses.** *20 points, based on thoroughness, accuracy, and detail of your responses overall.*

1. Choose a scene in which your character appears—a scene in which your character plays a significant part and that is important to your character’s role in the play. Write the act, scene, and line numbers here, and give a very brief summary (just enough to jostle my memory so I know what scene you’re talking about):
2. Is this scene in prose, blank verse, rhymed verse, or a combination? Is this significant—does it tell us something about the social environment, the mental state of characters, etc.? (Hint: If there is a change from prose to verse or vice-versa within the scene, it may indicate a change in atmosphere, power dynamics, or emotions.)
3. How do characters address each other—formal “you,” informal “thou,” or a combination? What other words do they use to address each other (e.g. respectful “my lord” vs. scornful “worthless churl” vs. affectionate [or sarcastic] “dear mother”)? What do these forms of address indicate about character relationships—social status, emotions, etc.? Are there shifts/changes in how characters address each other, and if so, what might these changes indicate?
4. Do you notice any jokes, puns, double entendres, or innuendoes? If so, describe and explain them, and explain their purpose (to insult, to have fun…); if not, write “N/A.”
5. Are there any allusions (to religion, to mythology, to history)? If so, identify them and explain how/why they are being used; if not, write “N/A.”
6. Comment on at least three other significant things you notice about language in this passage—word choice, syntax, rhythm/meter, etc. Identify what you notice and comment on why it is notable. **If you replied “N/A” to one of the previous questions, I will expect more elements and more detail in your response to this question.**