Mrs. Talley Name: _____

English IV AP Date: _____

***Hamlet*—William Shakespeare**

Act II, Scene I

1. What is ironic about Polonius' attempt to learn Laertes' life in Paris?

2. Why would Polonius immediately jump to the conclusion that Hamlet is mad for Ophelia's love?

3. Consider how the episode of Hamlet in Ophelia's closet (room) promises to contribute to the overall calamity of the tragic plot.

Act II, Scene II

4. Are Rosencrantz and Guildenstern *willing* spies for Claudius and Gertrude?

5. Explain Hamlet's puns and their significance in this scene.

6. What effect is created by the scenes between Hamlet and Polonius being in prose?

7. What are some of the slang expressions and puns Hamlet uses in his first exchange with Polonius? Why are they significant?

8. What is Hamlet's initial reaction to the appearance of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern?

9. What are Rosencrantz and Guildenstern hesitant to admit that they are in Elsinore because the king and queen sent for them?

10. Analyze Hamlet's famous "What a piece of work is a man!"

11. Why does Shakespeare introduce a troupe of traveling players into the action of the play?

12. What does Hamlet's expression of concern about the child actors used in the city contribute to the plot or to the development of his character?

13. What is unusual about the player's monologue about the Fall of Troy?