

## Drama as Literature 2

### Reading Log

While reading each play, you will keep a log of your journey through it. Log entries will consist of such things as scene summaries; comments on the action, characters, language, themes, and so forth; and your personal reactions to those elements of the story.

Record all entries on either lined paper (no ragged edges) or on a Word file.

You are in charge of your own personal log. You will decide what to write and in what form, but there are three rules:

1. Clearly label each entry with the act and scene numbers.
2. Write after *every* reading assignment.
3. Over the course of the play, respond to a variety of the components so that by the end you will have considered each component several times.

Write in your own voice. Interact with the play. Grades will be based on the thoroughness of your responses.

**Entries:** For each **scene**, do a minimum of *two* of the following:

1. Summarize the action of the scene.
2. Comment on what you think is the significance of the scene. What would the play be like without it?
3. Ask questions about the scene. Has anything caused you confusion? Ask one of the characters in the scene a question – or ask me a question.

Example:

*Hamlet* 2.1 Questions: Polonius—what’s your problem? Reynaldo—are you going to spread the bad word about Laertes? I hope you don’t. Ophelia—how strongly do you feel about Hamlet? You’d better avoid him totally before something terrible happens! Hey, Hamlet—what are your feelings toward Ophelia? Do you care about her? (Kenda White)

4. Quote lines from the scene that you enjoyed and comment on them.

Example:

*Hamlet* 1.1 – Horatio says “Most like. It harrows me with fear and wonder.” This line really explains to us what all three of the guards are thinking when they see the ghost. They are all frightened by it, yet they wonder why it came to them and why it is dressed the way it is. It really sets the mood for the whole scene because it lets us know that they are anxious. The first few lines in this scene really shocked me because we didn’t know anything

about these characters, yet they were all so nervous and jumpy. Plus they were very suspicious and cautious of everything.

5. Describe your reaction to a character, action, or idea in the scene.

Example:

*Hamlet* 1.2 – King Claudius seems like a flake to me. He seems to know what he's talking about but to me it's like it's rehearsed or something. I can understand him trying to be friends with Hamlet, but it seems to me that he is just doing it to make himself look good. I don't think he means anything of what he said to Hamlet.

6. Talk about the relationship characters have with one another, quoting specific words or phrases to give evidence for your opinions.

Example:

*Hamlet* 4.1 – I'm not sure if Gertrude is honest to Claudius or Hamlet. I can't decide if she's trying to BS Claudius or if she has betrayed Hamlet. I felt really confused about just who was on whose side. I want Gertrude just to be covering for Hamlet, telling Claudius what he thinks he already knows, not that Hamlet is in complete control. But then again, Hamlet told his mother not to go to Claudius and she did, so Gertrude doesn't seem so great to me.

7. Pretend you are a character. Get inside that character's mind. Tell how the character feels about herself, about the other characters, about the situation of the scene.

Example:

*Hamlet* 1.2 – I feel sorry for Hamlet! He comes home to find out that his mother is married to his uncle and his father is dead. Then to find out that his buds are seeing his father's ghost! He's really getting confused and messed in the head. No wonder he wishes it was legal to commit suicide. This poor kid must have some problems, big time! I think he's getting curious as to hwy all this is happening at once. I think he's getting a whiff of a rat!

Your logs will be due at the beginning of the hour the day after the reading is assigned and will be used for discussion. If you keep on top of everything, this assignment should not only be beneficial to your thinking about the plays, but it should also be extremely easy. Feel free to take notes about what interests you as we read in class.