ACT I REVIEW

The Motif of Ambiguity: How do we know what we know? Are our perceptions the same, accurate?

Motif of “eyes,” “ears,”—and other means of knowing and perceiving.

What is the “ghost”? Can it be trusted?

What is Queen Gertrude’s role in the awkward state of DenmarK? Was she having an affair with King Hamlet’s brother? Why did she marry him so quickly? Why did the crown pass to him instead of Hamlet?

Motif of advice. Is it always good, right? When should one obey, trust advice as sound and wise?

Establishing a sense of purpose. For Hamlet it becomes revenge, but how? Can he act without hesitation, based on the words of an “apparition?” Will he overthink the situation?

Motif of poison and rottenness: “Something is rotten in the state of Denmark,” literal poison in King Hamlet’s ear…

Hamlet’s plan to take on an “antic disposition,” creating ambiguity for his own character