

Hamlet

The Missing Soliloquies

Essential Question:

What are the thoughts and aspirations of Shakespeare's secondary characters in **Hamlet**?

Introduction:

William Shakespeare was pitching the play of **Hamlet** to his producer over a couple of ales at The King's Head Pub in London. His producer, K Money said, "Big Willy, you know I love ya. Your play is just too damn long. This play cannot be a minute over four and a half hours. At that point, the groundlings get a little restless." Shakespeare stared long into his empty glass and said, "There is no way I cut any of Hamlet's lines, but some of the other characters do tend to go on a little. Buy me another ale and I'll do it." And that is just what K Money did. In fact Shakespeare had so much ale, he ended up losing ten pages of the original text.

They have recently been found. Ophelia, Gertrude, Rosencrantz, Guildenstern, Laertes, and Horatio all had soliloquies that have been missing. The six hour production of **Hamlet** is now in production.

Challenge

You will provide the class with one of the missing soliloquies. A successful speech will...

- be written in the Shakespearean style
- shed light on the character's motivations and desires
- be appropriate for the character
- come from one of the six characters listed
- include what act and scene the speech would have taken place
- be at least fourteen lines long
- be ready to be turned on May 8th, 2014
- be typed
- be written on your own
- be awarded significant extra credit if read out loud to the class

Reflective Question (to be turned in with written speech):

What aspect of the character did you explore? Did you come to know him or her better?
What is your favorite line for your soliloquy?