

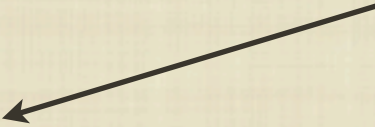
Hamlet: Close Reading

Act 2, Scene 1, Lines 99-112
Karly Bornstein


Lines 99-103

He took me by the wrist and held me hard.
Then goes he to the length of all his arm,
And, with his other hand thus o'er his brow,
He falls to such perusal of my face
As he would draw it. Long stayed he so.

Hamlet doesn't want to get too close to Ophelia, hence, "the length of all his arm".



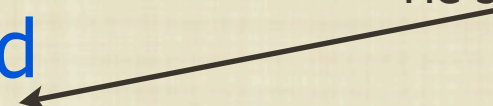
However, it seems as though he still loves her and stares at her face long enough until it seems that he could paint her visage.



Lines 104-108

At last, a little shaking of mine arm,
And thrice his head thus waving **up** and **down**,
He raised a sigh so piteous and profound
As it did seem to shatter all his bulk
And end his being. That done, he lets me go,

He sighed like it was his
last breath



Lines 109-112

And with his head over his shoulder turned,
He seemed to find his way without his eye,
For our o' doors he went without their helps
And to the last bended their light on me.

Hamlet is still so shocked at what has happened, he doesn't even see where he's going. He walks out as if he can't see where the door is, but still manages to find his way.

Never said a word to her the whole time, but his actions were powerful enough for Ophelia to tell her father.