



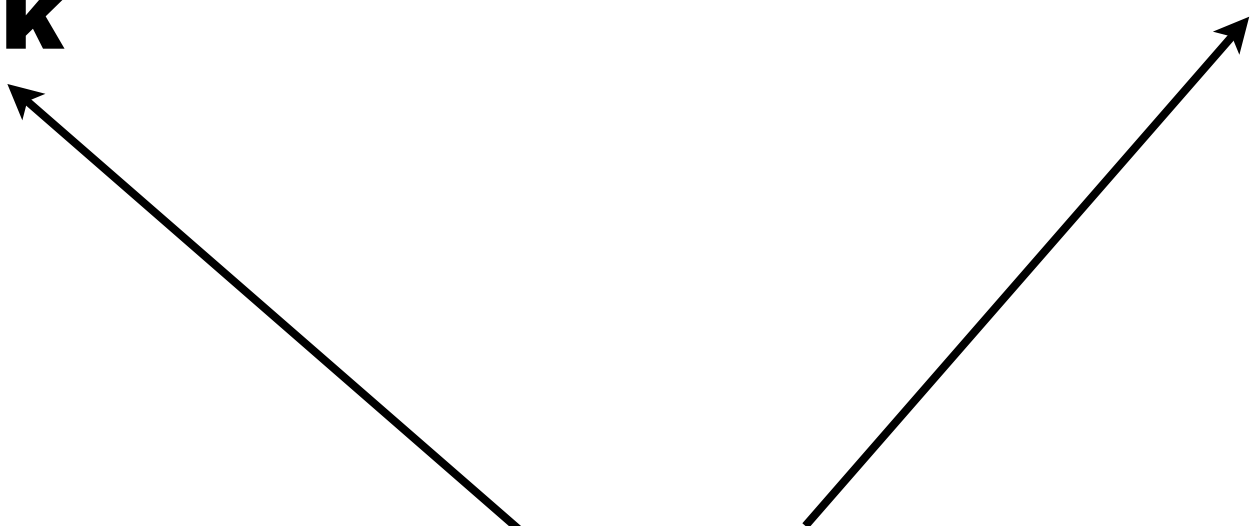
Hamlet: Close Reading

Act 2. Scene 2. Lines 623-635

Jasmin Hussain

Line 622

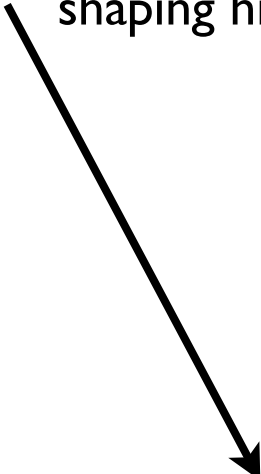
For *murder*, though it have **no tongue**,
will **speak**



Because murder is an action that can not speak for itself, it can only be seen. In this case Claudius will never admit through words that he killed the king. Therefore Hamlet wants to see the face of the murderer and the crime will speak through his face expressions

Line 623-625

Shakespeare constructs a play within his own play. He becomes really creative when it comes to shaping his characters.



Great skill and experience.



With most *miraculous organ*.

I'll have these players

Play something like the **murder** of my father

Before mine uncle:



The tone of this line suggests that Hamlet suspects his uncle of a harsh crime.

Line 625-627

Hamlet believes that by examining his uncle's expressions he will be able to evaluate if his uncle is truly guilty or not.

If Claudius flinches or make a sudden movement during the killing of the king then Hamlet will know...

I'll **observe** his looks;

I'll *tent him to the quick*: If he do **blench**,

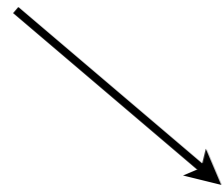
I know my course.

If Claudius does blench, flinches or makes movements during the killing of the king scene Hamlets plan will be successful and his suspicions about Clausius and he will know where to go on from there.

Tent, means to investigate by drawing one into a trap. This is exactly what Hamlet believes his plan will do. Claudius does not expect the play to be about the King's foul death. Claudius also is not aware of the fact that Hamlet will be keeping an eye on him during the performance, therefore he will not be able to compose his face of any emotions.

Line 627-629

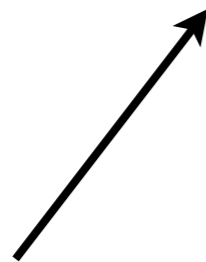
Look on Claudius's face.



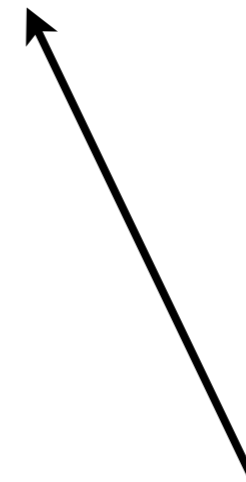
The **spirit** that I have seen

May be the **devil**: and the **devil** hath
power

To assume a pleasing shape;



The devil knows how to trick people by turning into someone that one loves and misses dearly just like Hamlet does his father.



After looking at the king's face Hamlet will know if his uncle was the murderer or actually innocent for the death of the king. If he is innocent it will mean that the ghost of the king was actually the devil.

Line 629-632

The devil is taking advantage of Hamlets weaknesses.



yea, and perhaps,

Out of my *weakness* and my *melancholy*,

As he is very potent with such spirits,

Abuses me to **damn** me:



Hamlets thinks that there is a possibility that that the devil is evil and is trying to trick Hamlet, and wishes to cause him harm.

Line 632-635


The tone in this implies that the play will give Hamlet more to work off of. He will have more proof and knowledge on whether to trust Claudius or not.



I'll have grounds

More relative than this: the play's the thing

Wherein I'll catch the **conscience** of the king.



Hamlet will know more about Claudius's thoughts.