



1

Discovering Shakespeare's Hamlet

Grades 9-12



OVERVIEW	Many students are intimidated with Shakespeare's plays, because of the language Shakespeare wrote with. What many teens don't know is that Shakespeare can be easily understood if you break apart the sentences. By incorporating acting and drawing, students can see how easy it can be to understand Shakespeare's Hamlet. The purpose of this activity is to show students how easy it is to understand Shakespeare's language by incorporating art and acting in with his play Hamlet.
OBJECTIVE	After reading Shakespeare's Hamlet, students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Draw out and discuss the key points from the scene they read. ● Explain to their classmates what they learned/thought of during their reading of Hamlet through the use of Google Talk. Students will have to pick out four of the six main points from the scene to present in front of their classmates.
STANDARDS	LIT.3 Literary Analysis and Criticism of Fiction. Students read and respond to grade-level-appropriate historically or culturally significant works of literature, such as the selections in the www.doe.in.gov/standards/readinglist.html illustrate the quality and complexity of the materials to be read by students. Students read a wide variety of literature, such as classic and contemporary literature, historical fiction, fantasy, science fiction, folklore, mythology, poetry, short stories, dramas, and other genres.
MATERIALS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A copy of Shakespeare's Hamlet. 2. A classroom laptop.
PROCEDURE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have the students form their desks in a circle. 2. Assign each character in the scene to a student. 3. The students who have a reading part will then read and act out their lines as they think they should be interpreted. 4. After the students have read the assigned parts, they will break into groups of four or five. 5. Each group will have a laptop to discuss with the other groups what they learned using Google Talk. 6. Each group will then present the key points they learned about Hamlet via Google Talk. 7. The class will vote on which group they thought explained the scene the clearest. The winning group will get five extra credit points.
EVALUATION	I will check for understanding by giving my students an essay test over Hamlet. If they are able to clearly summarize one main point from each of the five acts, then I know they would have done well over this unit.

¹ <http://www.mcgoodwin.net/pages/images/dagnanhamlet.jpg>

² <http://dc.doe.in.gov/Standards/AcademicStandards/StandardSearch.aspx>

³ <http://extremetrix.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/Google-Talk.png>