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EN40SC

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Ms. Smith

Hamlet's Relationships with Friends and Family ✓

Friendships, romantic relationships, and toxic enemies are all important types of relationship experiences that one should have in their life. William Shakespeare writes many unique relationships into his play, *Hamlet*. In the book, Hamlet must make a hard decision to avenge his father while strengthening and weakening his relationships along the way. Many relationships were present in *Hamlet* including Hamlet and Horatio's friendship, King Claudius' toxic parental relationship with Hamlet, and Hamlet's romantic relationship with Ophelia. ✓

Hamlet and Horatio had a very loving friendship and always had each other's back. When Hamlet put on the play to expose the King, he told Horatio: ✓

Even with the very comment of thy soul Observe mine uncle; if his occulted guilt Do not
itself unkennel in one speech, It is a damned ghost that we have seen, And my
imaginings are as foul As Vulcan's Stithy (3.2.78-83). ✓

Hamlet admitted to Horatio that he knew he could not trust himself to watch the King's reaction in fear that his mind would play tricks on him. He trusted Horatio to watch the King for him instead to not interfere with the truth. This simple act show how Hamlet and Horatio have a very trusting and understanding relationship. Being able to trust another person with a task, very important to oneself, and having them complete it with no questions asked is a sign of a very good friendship. For another example, when the ghost of Hamlet's father tries to lure Hamlet away, Horatio says:

What if it tempt you toward the flood, my lord, Or to the dreadful summit of the cliff
That beetles o'er his base into the sea, And there assume some other horrible form,
Which might deprive your sovereignty of reason And draw you into madness?
(1.4.69-74). ✓

Horatio knows how dangerous the situation can be, and tries to warn his dear friend of ways that it can go wrong. This shows how Horatio cares for Hamlet's well-being and wishes to protect him from making any poor decisions. ✓ Any amazing friendship must have a strong foundation of trust, understanding and caring which is exactly what Hamlet and Horatio have found. While Hamlet and Horatio had a close, strong, friendship, Hamlet's relationship with his step-father was toxic. ✓

King Claudius and Hamlet's relationship was purely built on distrust and manipulation to the point where they resented one another. ✓ After Hamlet started acting strange, instead of talking to him, the King hired two men to become Hamlet's friends and spy on him. The King says, "So by your companies To draw him on to pleasures, and to gather, So much as from occasion you may glean." (2.2.14-16). ✓ Hiring people to spy on one's son, instead of talking to them, is a clear red flag of a distrustful relationship. Not being able to have trust in a relationship, means it is not likely going to last and can create stressful situations which later arose between Hamlet and his step-father. Hamlet and Claudius never got along and therefore Hamlet hated him which is clearly shown when he says, "Here is your husband; like a mildew'd ear, Blasting his wholesome brother. Have you eyes?" (3.4.66-67). ✓ Hamlet throws insults at Claudius behind his back showing a clear sign of hatred towards him. The toxic and hateful relationship Hamlet shares with the King is the polar opposite of the trusting and caring friendship displayed between Hamlet and Horatio. ✓ Due to the hatred between the two, both Hamlet and the King wanted each other dead and would later succeed in ending each other's lives. Hamlet had been through his best and his worst relationships, but the one he shared with Ophelia was a bumpy road of love and hate. ✓

Hamlet and Ophelia's relationship was inconsistent, but ended on a happy note after Ophelia's death. The relationship between the two lovebirds was about to take a harsh turn. From the guiding hands of her father, Ophelia broke up with Hamlet to which he says: ✓

I have heard of your paintings too well enough. God hath given you a face, and you make yourselves another; you jig, you amble, and you lisp, and nickname God's creatures, and make your wantonness your ignorance. Go to, I'll no more on't; it hath made me mad (3.1.143-148). ✓

When Ophelia ended their relationship, Hamlet went into a fit of rage and deeply insulted her by calling her disturbing names and acting unreasonable. Just days before Hamlet said these cruel words, he was completely in love with her. ✓ This random turn of emotions shows how new the relationship with Ophelia was, and how easily they let their issues get between them. In this scene, Hamlet seems to act heatless towards her making one believe that he was using her from the start. ✓ In a strong, healthy relationship, the two parties must talk over their problems rather than yelling and saying words they might regret later. When Ophelia's death became known to Hamlet he says, "I loved Ophelia; forty thousand brothers, Could not with all their quantity of love, Make up my sum." (5.1.263-265). ✓ Here, Hamlet expresses how much he truly loved Ophelia by saying he loved her more than 40,000 brothers could love her. Even though they had a rough patch in their relationship, this heartfelt speech shows that through it all, Hamlet still loved and cared for Ophelia. ✓ In a relationship, both people should be working together through the thick and thin which they both could not accomplish before Ophelia's tragic death, but in the long run, they still loved each other and that is what matters. Hamlet had many types of relationships and handled them in his own unique ways. ✓

To conclude, many interesting relationships were written throughout *Hamlet* including the trustful and caring relationship between Hamlet and Horatio where they both express their fondness of one another, the hate fueled relationship between Hamlet and Claudius which would lead to both of their downfalls, and the messy romantic relationship Hamlet had with Ophelia which could have blossomed if more communication was involved. These examples show the variety of relationships Hamlet had experienced in his short life. Learning about how different relationships can affect one's emotional well-being is important because having strong and healthy relationships that one can count on are far more superior than having toxic, unhealthy ones that can lead to unhappiness and stress.

Works Cited

Roy, Ken. Editor. *Hamlet*. Nelson Education.

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Sample: Identifying Your Writing Variables



Day 2

Identifying Your Writing Variables

Think of the writing variables like pieces of a puzzle. Plan your writing variables for your written text about *Topic* in the graphic organizer below. If you decide to change your writing variables during the writing process, please indicate the changes on your Final Copy.

The graphic organizer consists of five interlocking puzzle pieces arranged in a cross shape. Each piece is labeled with a writing variable and contains handwritten text:

- Form:** essay
- Purpose:** education of relationships + translation of Shakespeare gibberish
- Central Idea:** Hamlet's Relationships
- Audience:** Teenagers in high school + middle school
- Context:** Online Shakespeare website

Sample: Reflecting on Your Writing Task



Day 3 or 4

Reflecting on Your Writing Task

Using specific reference(s) to your writing variables and/or your draft, explain one or more of the following prompts:

5 marks

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- The information I included in my text is effective for my purpose because ...
- Ⓐ The advantages of my choice of form are ...
- Ⓑ My style of writing is effective in capturing and maintaining my audience's attention by ...
 - The context in which my audience will experience the text is important because ...
- Ⓒ The central idea of my text is important for my chosen audience because ...

The advantages of writing in the form of an essay are because it's an easy way to throw facts with explanations and also give different perspectives on different topics ^{about relationships}. My style of writing is effective in capturing my audience's attention by not using confusing language and making it easy to understand because no teenager wants to read something they can't understand. Lastly, the central idea of my text is important for teenagers because sometimes reading about others' experiences with relationships can help them understand their own relationships more and make connections about how different relationships can make you act and feel.