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*Hamlet's*  
The Underlying Character in ~~a~~ Soliloquies

During the Shakespearean times, many playwrights used soliloquies in their plays to assist in revealing a character's personality, in particularly the main characters. People do not always act or say exactly how they are feeling, and this is also present in plays, so soliloquies allow the audience inside the mind of a certain character. In the play, Hamlet by William Shakespeare, the main character, Hamlet, reveals his true character and the thoughts he has through his several soliloquies. During his soliloquies, Hamlet reveals his thoughts on woman, his procrastination habits, and how he does not always act like the person he pictures himself to be in the imagination of his mind. These soliloquies help to further the story of Hamlet by adding insight into Hamlet's mind, which also develops the climax of the play. Soliloquies are helpful tools in literature and playwriting, and Hamlet's soliloquies represent just how that is.

Through Hamlet's first soliloquy of the play in Act 1, Scene 2, Hamlet reveals that he does not think very highly <sup>of</sup> women. Hamlet is not close with his mother after she marries his uncle shortly after the passing of his father. This is because he feels as if she is weak and cannot live on her own, without a man, and he now believes all women are of this nature because of his mother's actions. Hamlet feels second-hand betrayal for his deceased father, and first-hand

betrayal for himself, which pushes him away from the relationship he has with his mother. He is astonished how she could have done such a thing, especially with her dead husband's brother (Shakespeare). He states his thoughts on her actions when he says, "Must I remember? Why she would hang on him, as if increase of appetite had grown by what fed on: and yet, within a month—" (1, 2, 143-145) Hamlet, now because of his mother's wrong doings in his opinion, does not trust women and believes them to be promiscuous and sneaky. He finds that his mother slyly went against himself and his father in order to be with his uncle. Hamlet believes every detail of this event of marriage between his mother and uncle is wrong when he expresses, "She married. O most wicked speed, to post with such dexterity to incestuous sheets!" (1, 2, 156-157) Gertrude, Hamlet's mother, sets a big example for Hamlet's relationship towards women since his mother is the first woman he will ever love (Kleinman). He does not trust them which is why these trust issues add to later ruining his relationship with Ophelia as well (Shakespeare). Hamlet looks upon women in a very poor light due to his mother's behaviours. ✓

*To add to*  
~~Added on to~~ Hamlet's trust issues with women, he also has procrastination issues; often, Hamlet procrastinates when it comes to taking action, as shown in his soliloquy during Act 2, Scene 2. He often wastes his time having inner conflicts with himself on what he should do, and plans too much. Imagining scenarios and creating situations vividly in his mind is what Hamlet does best. When Hamlet imagines, "I'll have grounds more relative than this: the play's the thing wherein I'll catch the conscience of the king," (2, 2, 601-603) he is creating wild solutions for his troubles to solve them, yet he never acts. Hamlet has a disease of disillusionment which keeps him from taking action (Nardo). There is also a lot of contemplation and questioning that goes on in his mind. Hamlet takes too much time pondering different ideas and attempting to figure which is logical or the plausible thing to do. He ponders where he stands as a person when he

says, "Am I a coward? Who calls me villain? Breaks my pate across? Plucks off my beard, and blows it in my face?" (2, 2, 567-569) This is one of his many ventures into the decision making center of his mind, while he is failing to bring his thoughts and imagination into action. Hamlet is a prisoner of procrastination for the majority of the play even though he may not entirely see this for himself.

Hamlet, even though procrastinating, believes himself to be a different person than his actions lead him to be. In his soliloquy in Act 4, Scene 4 he shows the Hamlet that he pictures in his mind, where he is unstoppable from obstacles, but we see that his actions do not prove this image to be true. It is almost as if he is only really living inside of his imagination. There is only one person who Hamlet speaks his mind to, which is Horatio, but other than that, Hamlet is his own best friend and mediator (Bloom). He talks and discusses with himself often, since he has no one else he feels he can really trust this information with; for example, Hamlet says in one of his soliloquies, "Now, whether it be Bestial oblivion, or some craven scruple of thinking too precisely on the event, a thought which, ever three parts coward, I do not know." (4, 4, 38-42) He is constantly having conversations with the unstoppable image of himself in his mind. He creates all of these solutions to his problems without really acknowledging the fact that he merely may not have the heart to put these thoughts into action. Hamlet is stumped and frustrated with himself because he wants to kill the king and is not sure why he has not done so already (Nardo). He says, "My thoughts be bloody, or be nothing worth," (4, 4, 65) this showing that his thoughts have wild possibilities of killing, but the audience sees no action from these thoughts until nearer to the end of the play, in the heat of the moment (Shakespeare). Hamlet does not consider his inability to act, he just thinks of acting. This causes him to delay and play out the misfortunes to come. Hamlet is a wild character in his mind, but a stand-by in reality.

All of the events surrounding Hamlet, and his thoughts upon them, lead to who his character is. Through soliloquies, William Shakespeare shows the inside of the mind of Hamlet, and his thoughts on women, his procrastination, and his unstoppable imagination of himself. If it were not for soliloquies, the audience would just believe Hamlet to be a quiet person who eventually turns mad. His thoughts help develop the plot of the play more vividly, and reveal his importance as a character in the play. Soliloquies not only reveal a character, but the story as well. Hamlet's character is revealed through soliloquies and his importance to the play is affirmed throughout them as well.

## Works Cited

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Shakespeare, William. *Hamlet*. Ontario: Harcourt Canada Ltd., 1616. Print.

Nardo, Don. *Understanding Hamlet*. California: Lucent Books Inc., 1947. Print.

Bloom, Harold. *William Shakespeare's Hamlet*. United States of America: Chelsea House Publishers, 1986. Print.

Kleinman, Paul. *Psych 101*. United States of America: F+W Media, Inc., 2012. Print.

needs to  
be  
alphabetical

## Explaining Your Writing Variables

Identify the five writing variables you have chosen for your writing task [REDACTED]

Central Idea: Hamlet's character is revealed through soliloquies in the play/Hamlet  
 Form: Essay  
 Purpose: To explain how Hamlet's character is revealed through soliloquies  
 Public Audience: Shakespearean fans/critics  
 Context: Hamlet/Hamlet criticism collaboration

Explain how your chosen writing variables work together to make your text effective.

5 marks

An essay is the best way to communicate how Hamlet's, the main character of the play Hamlet by William Shakespeare, character is revealed through his several soliloquies in the play because I can organize my ideas into subtopics in paragraphs. My essay is very informational because I go into depth about how his different character traits (his poor views on women, his procrastinatory habits, and different image of himself) are revealed through his soliloquies, so I believe Hamlet fans or critics will find it interesting to see my interpretations of the play and Hamlet's character. The best place to find Hamlet fans and critics would be in a Hamlet criticism collaboration in a public library. Since the library is accessible to anyone of the public, all Hamlet fans and critics would be able to find my essay in the collaboration there. I think the fans/critics would find it particularly informational because I give proof to the points/ideas I make by quoting the text or using examples.