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### Hamlet's Revelations of His Character Through Soliloquies

How can one know a person's true inner thoughts and secrets? Read or watch their soliloquy!

However, life is not a Shakespearean play, therefore one will never know what a person is thinking.

Luckily in William Shakespeare's play, *Hamlet*, Hamlet has seven soliloquies that each reveal something new. A soliloquy is a speech a character gives to help the audience understand their thoughts or to inform the audience about an event in the play (What is Soliloquy?). The play *Hamlet* is a tragedy about Prince Hamlet who seeks revenge on his uncle who killed the king, Hamlet's father. Subsequently, his uncle becomes the new king after he marries Hamlet's mother, the Queen. In Hamlet's first, fourth, sixth and final soliloquies, he informs the audience what is happening at that specific moment and insight to his feelings. Hamlet reveals his transformation of being a depressed man to a confident one in various of his soliloquies. ✓

Hamlet reveals in his first soliloquy signs of depression. His father died, however the main cause of Hamlet's depression is his mother's new sudden marriage to his uncle (Meers).. Hamlet believes, "a beast that wants discourse of reason would have mourn'd longer..." (1.2.150-151). Demonstrating his infuriation towards the marriage and his mother's absence of loyalty to his late father (Meers). Losing a loved one can cause grief that can trigger depression, explaining Hamlet's state of melancholy (Healthline Editorial Team). These life events cause Hamlet to scrutinize the world as, "an unweeded Garden, that grows to seed; things rank and gross in nature..." (1.2.135-136). This shows Hamlet's disgust with his new reality in a world where unfortunate situations manifest (Meers). Resulting in him having a hopeless outlook on life, which is a common sign of depression (Healthline Editorial Team). This results in Hamlet's new wish, "O, that this too too-solid flesh would melt, thaw and resolve itself into dew!

(1.2.129-132). This demonstrates his hatred of life and want for his flesh to melt (Anne). Hamlet's new thoughts of death turn into thoughts of killing himself in his fourth soliloquy.

Hamlet's depression worsens as he contemplates suicide in his fourth soliloquy. Hamlet ponders if it would be better to die and stop suffering, or to endure the challenges life brings (Meers). He questions the purpose of life when everyone will die inevitably, "For who would bear the whips and scorns of time, the oppressor's wrong, the proud man's contumely, the pang of despised love...and the spurns that patient merit of the unworthy takes, when he himself might his quietus make..." (3.1.71-76). Demonstrating Hamlet's inability to find a reason to live and his depression worsening (Vandew). Hamlet also fears death because it is unknown, "...the dread of something after death, the undiscover'd country from whose bourn no traveller returns..." (3.1.79-81). This shows Hamlet's idea that no one has come returned from the dead to tell what happened and he is apprehensive of what may come (Meers). Hamlet realizes, "Thus conscience does make coward of us all..." (3.1.84). This demonstrates how Hamlet considers himself to be a coward who contemplates suicide, which prevents him from committing the act (Campbell). The severity of his depression weakens as he chooses to live and endure the misfortunes of life. Hamlet alters his mind set from wanting to kill himself, to killing the king.

Hamlet's depression results in a lack of confidence to murder the king in his penultimate soliloquy. He discovers the king killed his father only to take over the throne, and he generates excuses to withhold from murdering the king. Hamlet has the opportunity to kill him while he is praying. However, Hamlet does not have the courage to commit the crime and creates an excuse, "A villain kills my father; and, for that, I, his sole son, do this same villain send to heaven." (3.3.77-79). This demonstrates that Hamlet believes he would be doing his father's murderer a favor by killing him and sending him to heaven (Meers). He decides to prolong the murder and wait for another opportunity to kill when he the king is, "...drunk asleep, or in his rage, or in the incestuous pleasure of his bed, at gaming, swearing, or about some act that has no relish of salvation in't..." (3.3.90-93). Demonstrating Hamlet's intentions to kill the king, but not until he accumulates his anger and motivation to kill for a reason (Now I Might I Do It Pat: Hamlet Soliloquy Analysis). To murder him while he is sinning will send the king to hell and



will properly avenge his father's death (Now I Might I Do It Pat: Hamlet Soliloquy Analysis). Hamlet's absence of confidence and courage results in him not achieving justice for his father, until he becomes aware of the soldiers prepared to fight for worthless land. ✓

In Hamlet's final soliloquy, his state of depression ends and his character becomes confident and revengeful. He discovers that Fortinbras is going to invade Poland and thousands of soldiers are willing to fight and die for worthless land (4.4.16-28). This makes Hamlet realize he has been wasting time and his purpose must be fulfilled by killing the king (Meers). He recalls, "...that have a father kill'd, a mother stain'd, excitements of my reason and my blood, and let all sleep, while to my shame I see the imminent death of twenty thousand men..." (4.4.56-59). This shows his decision to stop procrastinating and seek revenge instead (Meers). At the end of the soliloquy, Hamlet vows, "O, from this time forth, my thoughts be bloody, or be nothing worth!" (4.4.64-65). Demonstrating his determination to murder and bring justice to his father (Schoolworkhelper Editorial Team). Hamlet has reconstructed himself into a confident man who is ready to kill. ✓

In conclusion, Hamlet reveals his transformation of being a depressed man to a confident man in various of his soliloquies. He demonstrates signs of depression in his first soliloquy due to his father's death and his mother marrying his uncle. Hamlet contemplated committing suicide in his fourth soliloquy, but decided to live to avenge his father's death. His depression decreases in his penultimate soliloquy, however he lacks the confidence needed to murder. Hamlet's character transforms in his final soliloquy when he becomes inspired by the soldiers who are fighting for worthless land. This is important to society because one must recognize and accept their depression in order to heal and grow from it. Acknowledging one's mental illness will allow them to ask and receive aid. Being in denial will only worsen the situation, one must accept their reality to proceed to a healthy future. ✓

*move away from using these types of sources*

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work by  
an editor



## Writing Variables

Central idea: it is possible for one to better their life and find their purpose.

Form: essay

Purpose: to inspire

Audience: depressed high school students

Context: guidance councillor's bulletin board

The central idea of my essay is it is possible for one to better their life and find their purpose. It is appealing to depressed high school students because Hamlet's thoughts in his soliloquies are relatable. Depressed high school students can connect with him and find hope in life. These kind of people can find my essay on guidance councillor's bulletin boards. Many students may not want to reach out for help they need. Therefore, they can easily grab my essay without anyone knowing while still giving themselves aid. I chose the form of an essay because it clearly demonstrates Hamlet's character's personal transformation. Each body paragraph shows his progression in his depression and finding his life purpose. Conveying the idea that it is possible to better one's life and find their purpose, resulting in a healthy state of mind and allows one to enjoy life.