

Hamlet
Act II

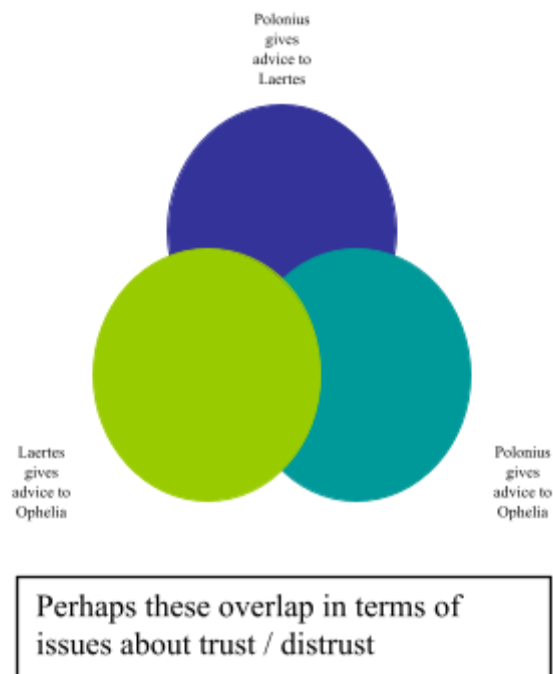
“Though this be madness, yet there is method in’t” (II.2.223-4)

Earlier this week, we reviewed the events of Act I as well as the various issues presented: the appearance of the ghost of King Hamlet, the threat of young Fortinbras, Hamlet’s mourning and frustration, Polonius and Laertes warning Ophelia about Hamlet, the giving of advice, Hamlet learning about his father’s murder, and the charge from the ghost to Hamlet to “revenge his most foul and unnatural murder” while not doing anything in terms of the queen (“leave her to heaven”). There are other events and issues in this busy act as well.

Act II shows us the continuation of these concerns while introducing a host of others. Your job today is to work with a small group to try to make sense of it all.

Start by making a list of the different key events of Act II. Each scene includes many, especially scene 2. For each one, note the section of the text where it appears. Use the chart on the back of this page to help you.

Next, you will create a visual representation of the ways in which these events overlap / intersect / parallel each other / introduce new ideas. Here is an example:



Then, write an interpretive question relating to the ideas you presented in your visual representation. Please remember to share a copy of your work with your whole group and me.

[illegible]