***Hamlet* Act III Journal**

**Scene 1:**

1. Note Claudius’ aside before Hamlet enter. What do you think he is responding to?
2. Note How Hamlet treats Ophelia. Is there any reason? Where does his tone change towards her? Mark the line.
3. In lines 153-155, Ophelia paints a picture of the ideal prince. Mark how she describes him as the ideal prince.

**Scene 2:**

1. Note Hamlet’s advice to the players. It is considered Shakespeare’s advice to his actors and critics.
2. Pay attention to Ophelia in this scene. Is there any line that you think is particularly hard for her?
3. Which moment makes Gertrude incredibly uncomfortable? Mark it.
4. Why is Hamlet so incensed with Guildenstern?

**Scene 3:**

1. When Claudius says “we will fetters put upon this fear…” To what fear is he referring?
2. Examine Claudius’ soliloquy. What are the moral issues he is wrestling with? Do you think he experiences true remorse?
3. Note why Hamlet says he does not kill Claudius.

**Scene 4:**

1. What line in this scene is the harshest between a mother and son?
2. Is Hamlet’s killing of Polonius in character for Hamlet, or is it out of place?
3. Why does the ghost enter when he does?
4. Some critics believe that Gertrude’s inability to see the ghost indicates her moral blindness. Mark her response to Hamlet when the ghost enters.
5. Mark Hamlet’s line “I must be cruel only to be kind.” This is a common saying now—has this “tough love” ever been used on you?
6. Note what Hamlet asks Gertrude to do *and pay attention to Gertrude from her on out. Does she change her attitude to the king?*