***Hamlet* Journal**

The following motifs appear in Hamlet. Mark them with sticky notes as you come across them. Does one stand out to you more than others? How does that motif influence the tone of the play?

madness (insanity, real or feigned),

disease (decay, rotting, disorder),

pretense (appearances, uncertainty),

nothing (as in the word)

questions—there are 421 in the play.

**Act 1:1**

1. Hendiadys: the expression of an idea by the use of usually two independent words connected by *and* (as *nice and warm*) instead of the usual combination of independent word and its modifier (as *nicely warm*). Find five examples of hendiadys in Horatio’s lines. What is unique about the way he uses them in this scene?
2. Mark how Horatio describes the ghost?

**Act 1:2**

1. Find three examples of antithesis in Claudius’ lines.
2. Is Claudius confident and in control? Uneasy and insecure? Devious and crafty? Honest and sincere? Mark the lines that you think indicate his character.
3. Find three examples in Act 1:2 where Hamlet plays with language/puns. (lines 65-120) What does it establish about his tone?

**Act 1:3**

1. Polonius delivers eight pieces of advice to Laertes. Mark them.
2. Identify two images of deceit. (lines 115-135).

**Act 1:4**

1. Mark why Horatio and Marcellus advise Hamlet from following the ghost.

**Act 1:5**

1. Note what the ghost says to Hamlet about Gertrude. Based on this, do you think she was unfaithful when he was alive?
2. Note what Hamlet says about his future behavior. Is his madness all feigned or is he beginning to lose it? Indicate the lines that you thin back up your view.