

Assignment: Reading Hamlet's Soliloquies

Choose one of Hamlet's other soliloquies and do the same analysis and modern-day translation you did in class with the soliloquy from Act III, Scene i.

The soliloquies you can choose from are:

- Act I, Scene ii "Oh, that this too too solid flesh" – Hamlet is at court, and it is noted that he is still grieving his father and wears all black.
- Act II, Scene ii "O, what a rogue and peasant slave am I!" – Hamlet has just watched one of the players perform a speech from a play.

In a written exercise, you will:

- Summarize the context of the soliloquy, explaining what has happened just before to motivate this soliloquy.
- Break the speech into complete thoughts, as you did in class with the "To be or not to be" speech. Clearly mark the different thoughts, and be prepared to submit the marked-up speech with your written exercise.
- Write a modern-day version, as you did in class for the other soliloquy.
- Answer the question: What do we learn about Hamlet in this speech? What do the lines and arguments reveal about him? What action do you expect to follow from the ideas considered here?