

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition

Motif Project for *Hamlet*

Motif

a recurrent image, word, object, phrase, or action that unifies the work and highlights significant ideas and themes

Task:

You will work in pairs (Choose wisely the partner with whom you can work effectively and productively.) to create a PowerPoint presentation of no more than 7 minutes in length and quotation analysis about your topic, tracking the motif through the course of the play. Each pair of students will choose a different topic. You will formally present your project to the class, explaining your ideas rather than reading from your PowerPoint.

Your PowerPoint presentation must include these elements:

- a thesis statement: What central idea does the motif develop?
- the five most significant quotations, one from each act preferably, that support your thesis (with citations)
- talking points for each quotation that you will explain
- creative visual and audio elements appropriate to your thesis and quotations
- a thematic concluding statement: What does the play teach us about humanity?

Your literary analysis must include these elements:

- ten quotations that effectively support your thesis (with citations and speakers/characters identified)
- detailed paragraph-length explanations for each of the quotations you have chosen (beginning with an effective topic sentence; showing how the quotation supports your thesis and theme statements; and making apt reference to function of literary devices such as *allusion, characterization, contrast, detail, diction, double entendre, figurative language, foil, imagery, irony, motif, setting, symbol, syntax, theme, tone, and/or tragedy*)

Motif Choices:

1. duty, responsibility, faithfulness, nobility
2. unnaturalness, chaos, war
3. weeds, growth, flowers, nature
4. decay, disease, foulness, sickness, poison
5. health, cleansing, repentance, forgiveness
6. sanity, insanity, wise foolishness
7. incest, kinship, blood, sexuality
8. mirrors, pictures, images
9. antithesis, equivocation, word play, doubling
10. acting, playing, performance, craft

11. deception, betrayal, spying