

## POST READING ACTIVITY: *Hamlet* “Theme” Discussion Questions:

### REVENGE

1. When you take revenge on someone else, do you know what the consequences will be?
2. Did Laertes, intent on revenge for the killing of his father, anticipate his own death with dishonor?
3. Did Hamlet, who stabbed the man behind the curtain intending to avenge his father’s murder, anticipate that his action would eventually lead to his own death and that of Ophelia?
4. Why doesn’t Ophelia take revenge on Hamlet for her father’s death?

### FIGHTING

5. Laertes entered the fight with Hamlet confident that he would win. What happened and how does this illustrate the uncertainty principle that characterizes fighting?

### GRIEVING

6. Each of the main characters in the play lost a person important to them. Complete the chart below to describe each character and their loss or losses:

<u>Main Character</u>	<u>Loss(es)</u>
1. Hamlet	
2. Ophelia	
3. Laertes	

7. Describe how each dealt with their grief and whether those mechanisms were healthy.

### FORGIVENESS

8. Should Hamlet have forgiven Claudius for killing his father, seducing his mother, and stealing the crown? What are the limits of forgiveness?

### GENERAL DISCUSSION

9. How does Hamlet attain the status of a hero despite the fact that he kills the wrong man in a hasty act of revenge and delays going after Claudius again until forced to act just before his own death?
10. Hamlet appears at times to be insane. Is he insane or is he pretending? Justify your answer.
11. In this play, what is Shakespeare trying to tell us about revenge?
12. What themes are found in *Hamlet*? Explain.