

**El Rancho Unified School District
English Language Arts**

Grade Level: 12th	Text Title: <i>Hamlet</i> Hamlet Theme: Sex and Deception	
Text-Dependent Questions: (Background): Hamlet continuously thinks about his aging mother’s sexual appetite, which becomes the way he feels about women in general. According to Hamlet, female sexuality makes the entire world seem like an “unweeded garden”. He associates sexuality with deception, sin, and a fallen world. 1) What is Hamlet’s attitude towards sexuality? What metaphors and language does he use when describing sex? 2) In what ways is Hamlet’s relationship to his mother’s sexuality and Ophelia’s sexuality the same? In what ways are they different? 3) Does hamlet focus more on female sexuality or make sexuality? Why? (Possible questions to be addressed in Thematic Analysis of the play). 4) In what ways does Hamlet’s attitude towards sexuality affect or mirror his attitude towards the entire world? 5) What is the relationship, for Hamlet, between sexuality, betrayal and deception? 6) Describe how Hamlet blames female sexuality for his “fallen world”.		Academic Vocabulary: Sexual appetite Sex Sexuality Deception Sin Betrayal Frailty Misogyny
Performance Tasks: (see next page)		Essential Skills:

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Performance Tasks:

- 1) In one paragraph, describe Hamlet's attitude towards sexuality. Cite 3 metaphors/examples of language that he uses when describing sex (be sure to cite specific act, scene, and line numbers) to support your answer.
- 2) Students will complete a Venn Diagram comparing and contrasting Hamlet's relationship to his mother's sexuality and to Ophelia's sexuality. They will transfer this into 2 written paragraphs.
- 3) Cite 3 examples from the play where Hamlet focuses more on female sexuality than on male sexuality? Explain why he does this (one paragraph).

Essential Skills:

*Students will be able to analyze Hamlet's evolving attitude towards sexuality

*Students will be able to note the similarities and differences between Hamlet's relationship to his mother's and Ophelia's sexuality.

*Students will understand how Hamlet projects his anger towards his mother onto others in his life, particularly Ophelia.

* Students will analyze the relationship, for Hamlet, between sexuality, betrayal and deception.

* Students will analyze and describe how Hamlet blames female sexuality for his "fallen world".

Common Core State Standards:

Reading Literature 12.1: Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

Writing 12.1: Write arguments to support claims in an analysis ...using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

Writing 12.10: Write routinely over extended times frames...and shorter time frames for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.