



**Lesson: What is Hamlet thinking?**

Passages from Act 2

1.

**And with a look so piteous in purport  
As if he had been loosed out of hell  
To speak of horrors - he comes before me.**

Ophelia - 2.1.92-94

2.

**Something have you heard  
Of Hamlet's transformation, so call it,  
Sith nor th' exterior nor the inward man  
Resembles that it was.**

King - 2.2.4-7

3.

**And I do think, . . .  
. . . that I have found  
The very cause of Hamlet's lunacy.**

Polonius - 2.2.49-52

4.

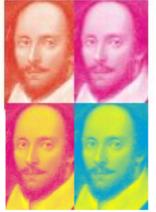
**I doubt it is no other but the main -  
His father's death and our o'erhasty marriage.**

Queen - 2.2.59-60

5.

***O dear Ophelia, . . . I have not  
art to reckon my groans, but that I love thee best, O  
most best, believe it. Adieu.***

Polonius - 2.2.128-130



6.

**Though this be madness, yet there is method in't.**

Polonius - 2.2.223-224

7.

**Were you not sent for?**

**. . . Come, come, deal justly with me.**

Hamlet - 2.2.295-297

8.

**I have of late, but**

**wherefore I know not, lost all my mirth, forgone all  
custom of exercises, and indeed, it goes so heavily  
with my disposition that this goodly frame, the  
earth . . .**

**. . . it appeareth nothing to me**

**but a foul and pestilent congregation of vapors.**

Hamlet 2.2.318-326

9.

**I am but mad north-north-west. When the  
wind is southerly, I know a hawk from a handsaw.**

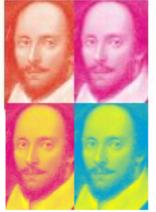
Hamlet - 2.2.402-403

10.

**Yet I,**

**A dull and muddy-mettled rascal, peak  
Like John-a-dreams, unpregnant of my cause,  
And can say nothing - no, not for a king  
Upon whose property and most dear life  
A damned defeat was made. Am I a coward?**

Hamlet - 2.2.593-598



**11.**

**The play's the thing**

**Wherein I'll catch the conscience of the King.**

Hamlet - 2.2.633-634