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## Hamlet Thesis Statement and Topic Statements

The play 'Hamlet' by William Shakespeare and edited by Robert S. Miola gives its message in a clear and concise way. Several literature forms have been used to express the author's message. They help in enhancing increased understanding of readers in order to get the scope of the play. Message delivery to the audience is an important aspect to any literature piece. Authors should use interesting writing styles to attract the audience's attention. In the play, *Hamlet*, the author starts the play in an interesting way. One is able to predict the mood of the entire play from the start of the play. A Robert choice to enlighten the audience on the message has been done in a broad way. The author has used questions to preserve the identity of the play. The essay is aimed at showing the various forms that the author has used in the play such as questions, imagery and descriptive style along with their effectiveness in enhancing increased understanding of the entire piece of work.

The play starts with a question that enhances the creation of a short introduction of the play to the audience. This question helps to make the audience have a shift from the ordinary world to the world in the play. The question also creates suspicion among the audience on what the play involves. Shakespeare quotes a question in the play,

"who's there?" creates a general view in the mind of the audience (1.1.1-2). The opening question creates other questions in the audience minds. They get the urge to want to answer the questions as they read through it. Therefore, the opening question gives the audience a more amplified start to the play. The opening question also helps in granting the audience freedom to make their independent decisions in the course of reading the play. The opening question acts like a rhetorical question to the audience. The audience therefore, has a mandate to decide on how to respond to the question. Shakespeare also uses another question, "or to take arms against a sea of troubles, and by opposing end them?" (3.1.60-61). Most importantly, the question also gives the audience a broad perspective of options to take. The reader can choose to read more of the play to get a clear view of the play's message. The question may also make the reader make an opinion to ignore the play. Therefore, the question at the start of the play helps in identifying the interested readers. An interested reader would take an initiative to continuously read the play and get a scope of the message in the play. Consequently, the opening question leads to proper utilization of the play.

The opening question in the play Hamlet also directs the readers on what they will encounter in the play. The question gives the readers a wide view of the plays message. The question does so by giving the readers a probability of courses the play might take. The question 'who's there?' gives the reader a rough plot of the encounters in the play. Firstly, the reader knows that he or she will get to know the traits of the person in question. The state at which the question is asked shows that there is a suspicious action that the person in question does. Shakespeare helps the reader predicts that he or she will get to know the action that the person in question had done as stressed in the statement, "doubt truth to be a liar" (2.2.118-119). The opening question also helps the reader to expect

the responsive actions that the person asking the question may take after recognizing the person. Therefore, the opening questions helps in establishing the themes of the play. Moreover, questions within the play also help in prompting the readers to take sides as they read the play. The questions help in creating a free space within which the reader can base his opinion. The reader is able to weigh the message of the play while on a different opinion ground. This is because as the reader reads through the play, he is able to glimpse the opinion of the author. In the play Hamlet, there are several questions that grant the reader freedom to have his or her own opinion. For instance, the author uses questions on the traits of the characters used in the play such as the traits of Hamlet. The quote used by Shakespeare, "to be, or not to be: that is the question" helps the reader to take an early opinion on the traits of the characters (3.1.55-87). Thereafter, the author explains the traits of the characters using the plot of the play. The reader is now able to make an informed decision on the traits of the character basing his or her argument with the play. This approach of questions in the play Hamlet is unique because it grants the readers the chance to have many opinions with an objective of making the play more understandable to the readers.

The author has also used the descriptive style in bringing a clear picture of the play. The descriptive style has been used for various purposes. Firstly, it has been used to describe the traits of the characters in the play. For example, towards the end of the play, the author uses Fortinbras to describe the character of Hamlet. Fortinbras says of Hamlet, "he was likely, had he been put on, / to have proved most loyal" (5.2.443-444). This description reveals the character of Hamlet. A suspicion on the ability of Hamlet being a worthy heir to his father's throne is raised by the description. The description style has also been used in the play to describe the plot of the play. The readers of the play are able to have a clear picture

on the flow of the play. The actions within the play are given through descriptions. Therefore, the plot of the play is gotten clearly by the description of the flow of actions. Most importantly, the descriptive style has also been used to portray the roles of various characters in the play. The characters have been described in several ways according to the situations that they are in. This means that the traits of the characters have been described differently by the author to ensure the roles have been presented more clearly in the respective situations. For instance, the reader gets various aspects of Ophelia's character. A reader can view Ophelia as an innocent victim of the deception and corruption works in the play. She portrays her madness which is tragic to Hamlet's feigned madness. Other readers may view "Ophelia as a sly young woman who deceives her father and tolerates Hamlet's obscene conversation" (1.3.11-15). This shows the various roles that the character, Ophelia, in her situations. The readers view the roles of Ophelia in different angles depending on her situations. The different views create a disparity in the traits of Ophelia in the play. The readers are also able to relate the actions of one of the characters on the other characters. Therefore, the description in the play helps in determining how the actions of one character affect the others through role description of the characters.

The play also has used imagery to show various aspects covered in the play. Imagery is used to create a real picture of the actions within the plot of the play. For illustration, mortality and meaning of life has been described using imagery in the play. The author uses a ghost to show Hamlet's meditation on death and recounting of Ophelia's suicide. This creates a real picture in the existence of death. The actions of Hamlet also help in showing the meaning of life. The imagery created through Hamlet's mourning show the great value that is attached to life. Imagery has also been used to give a scene of the graveyard. There is imagery in the quote, "all before the



inevitable bloodbath at the very end" (5.2.157-161). The imagery used in the quote shows the state at the graveyard. Critics have also written on Hamlet's death. They have had different suggestions on the imagery used to describe the meaning of life. Therefore, various aspects have been used by the critics to explain the imagery around the play and made their definitions. Mortality's nature has also been described throughout the play. The original version of the book had been done by Shakespeare before Robert came and edited the play. Shakespeare had also involved different aspects in his book of which Robert made little modifications. Shakespeare has explored the various aspects surrounding death and mortality in the play. Shakespeare has used tragedies in the play to describe the two aspects. The tragedy of Ophelia's suicide is a good example of Shakespeare's description of death and mortality. Shakespeare describes the suicide in a flow. His description creates a real picture in the reader's mind on the mortality. For instance, the quote, "there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so" (5.2.231-232) is an explanation of the emerging reality. Shakespeare has also used the instance of Hamlet mourning to describe the meaning of life.

In conclusion, the play has been designed in an artistic way. It has used artistic patterns to give information. The description of various situations within the play has been more emphasized through the artistic symbols. The use of questions in the play has enabled further understanding of the play. Therefore, the literary styles and forms have made the play more efficient to be understood by the readers. The literary styles have been described as use of questions, imagery, and descriptive style. These styles have played a huge role in enhancing increased understanding of the entire discussion and message in the play.

## Works Cited

Shakespeare, William *Hamlet: Text of the Play, the Actors' Gallery, Contexts, Criticism, Afterlives, Resources*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co, 2011. Print.