**Senior English - The Ghost’s Argument**

Directions: Using three different highlighter colors, scan the speech for words or phrases on the following categories: moral corruption, physical corruption, and forgiveness/hope/redemption. Please create a legend. Also, you will identify an example of each of the following: alliteration, simile, repetition, hyperbole, ethos, and pathos.

**Ghost’s Speech**

**Ghost**
Ay, that incestuous, that adulterate beast,
With witchcraft of his wit, with traitorous gifts,-- 50
O wicked wit and gifts, that have the power
So to seduce!--won to his shameful lust
The will of my most seeming-virtuous queen:
O Hamlet, what a falling-off was there!
From me, whose love was of that dignity 55
That it went hand in hand even with the vow
I made to her in marriage, and to decline
Upon a wretch whose natural gifts were poor
To those of mine!
But virtue, as it never will be moved, 60
Though lewdness court it in a shape of heaven,
So lust, though to a radiant angel link'd,
Will sate itself in a celestial bed,
And prey on garbage.
But, soft! methinks I scent the morning air; 65
Brief let me be. Sleeping within my orchard,
My custom always of the afternoon,
Upon my secure hour thy uncle stole,
With juice of cursed hebenon in a vial,
And in the porches of my ears did pour 70
The leperous distilment; whose effect
Holds such an enmity with blood of man
That swift as quicksilver it courses through
The natural gates and alleys of the body,
And with a sudden vigour doth posset 75
And curd, like eager droppings into milk,
The thin and wholesome blood: so did it mine;
And a most instant tetter bark'd about,
Most lazar-like, with vile and loathsome crust,
All my smooth body. 80
Thus was I, sleeping, by a brother's hand
Of life, of crown, of queen, at once dispatch'd:
Cut off even in the blossoms of my sin,
Unhousel'd, disappointed, unanel'd,
No reckoning made, but sent to my account 85
With all my imperfections on my head:
O, horrible! O, horrible! most horrible!
If thou hast nature in thee, bear it not;
Let not the royal bed of Denmark be
A couch for luxury and damned incest. 90
But, howsoever thou pursuest this act,
Taint not thy mind, nor let thy soul contrive
Against thy mother aught: leave her to heaven
And to those thorns that in her bosom lodge,
To prick and sting her. Fare thee well at once! 95
The glow-worm shows the matin to be near,
And 'gins to pale his uneffectual fire:
Adieu, adieu! Hamlet, remember me.

**Analyzing the Argument:**

**Directions: Now answer the following questions based on the ghost’s argument.**

1. Just what does the structure of the Ghost’s speech reveal?
2. Are the Ghost’s ideas arranged by order of importance, and if so, what is the order…least to most or most to least important? Explain.
3. Are the Ghost’s ideas arranged in a cause/effect pattern? Why or why not?
4. What does this speech reveal about the nature of the Ghost?