Name: Date: Hour:

**Hamlet: ACT 1**

All the major characters of Hamlet emerge in the first act. As you read act 1, focus on Hamlet’s developing relationships with the characters listed below. In each box state the relationship between Prince Hamlet and the character named and then describe the feelings that the prince has *toward* that character. Include textual evidence for feelings (1.5.22-23).

KING HAMLET

Relationship:

Feelings:

Textual Evidence:

CLAUDIUS

Relationship:

Feelings:

Textual Evidence:

GERTRUDE

Relationship:

Feelings:

Textual Evidence:

**PRINCE HAMLET**

HORATIO

Relationship:

Feelings:

Textual Evidence:

OPHELIA

Relationship:

Feelings:

Textual Evidence:

**ANALYZING LITERATURE Hamlet: ACT 1**

Respond to the following questions using textual evidence from the play as directed.

1. Describe the mood that Shakespeare creates in the opening scene of Hamlet when the ghost first appears. What specific words and actions create this mood? Cite these words.

1. Who is Polonius? What is his relationship to Claudius and to Hamlet? Explain his feelings about Ophelia’s relationship with Hamlet and the reasons behind those feelings.

1. Based on Hamlet’s comments in act 1, what would you say are his feelings toward his mother’s marriage? Cite specific lines to support your answer. Why do you think Hamlet keeps these feelings to himself?

1. Do the events of act 1 suggest to you that the ghost of Hamlet’s father is real or just a product of Hamlet’s imagination? Explain.

1. Based on Hamlet’s relationships with his mother, Claudius, and Horatio, do you think he will be successful in carrying out the wishes of his father’s spirit? Why or why not?

Character Analysis

1. Does Hamlet appear to be grieving or someone who is insane? Write a brief analysis of Hamlet’s character in act 1. Include **at least two** quotations from the play to support your analysis.