Unit III: GREED

Hamlet and The Great Gatsby

Greed: What causes it—is it learned or “natural”? How can it be stopped/prevented? What is the effect of greed on someone’s environment?

HAMLET
I. WATCH: In class, we will watch and discuss two versions of Hamlet:
   - Act 1: We 11/18
   - Act 2: Fr 11/20
   - Act 3: Mo 11/23
   - Act 4: Mo 11/30
   - Act 5: by Fr 12/4

II. Journal on Theme: Keep track of descriptions of greedy behavior. Find 20 quotes including the greedy behavior of at least 4 different characters. Label the name of the character, the location, and the context (who’s talking, to whom, about what), then copy and cite the quote in its entirety, and conclude with an explanation of how the quote shows greed (and consequences, if any). (20 pts.) Due: Mo 12/7

III. Group Work: (polling the types and consequences of greed) in class: Mo 12/7-Fr 12/11
   A. Motifs: Find five greed motifs that recur throughout most of the play. Copy down the occurrences (at least two per motif), then explore their symbolic significance in terms of greed (i.e., how does each motif contribute to our understanding of greed?). Write down what you find out. Each group will present their findings.
   B. Study Questions: Answer the study questions (below).
   C. Famous Quotes: Select 10 quotes from the list below. Explain a) what they mean and b) why they have remained more memorable than the other thousands of quotes in the play.
   D. Narrative Structure: Using a large piece of paper, draw a timeline of the events in the play that are motivated by greed. Keep track of a) who is being greedy; b) what motifs are employed to describe the greed; and c) who is the victim (intended or not). When you are done, explain d) how Hamlet is affected by each greedy event.

IV. Fishbowl: groups of 8 will discuss one of the assignments (theme, motifs, famous quotes, narrative structure) to be randomly assigned: Due:________

IV. Essay: TBA, in-class timed write on greed in Hamlet

Most Famous/Important Quotes in Hamlet
1. "To be, or not to be: that is the question". - (Act III, Scene I).
2. "Neither a borrower nor a lender be; For loan oft loses both itself and friend, and borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry". - (Act I, Scene III).
3. "This above all: to thine own self be true". - (Act I, Scene III).
4. "Though this be madness, yet there is method in 't.". - (Act II, Scene II).
5. "That it should come to this!". - (Act I, Scene II).
6. "There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so". - (Act II, Scene II).
7. "What a piece of work is man! how noble in reason! how infinite in faculty! in form and moving how express and admirable! in action how like an angel! in apprehension how like a god! the beauty of the world, the paragon of animals! ". - (Act II, Scene II).
9. "In my mind's eye". - (Act I, Scene II).
10. "A little more than kin, and less than kind". - (Act I, Scene II).
11. "The play 's the thing wherein I'll catch the conscience of the king". - (Act II, Scene II).
12. "And it must follow, as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man". - (Act I, Scene III).
13. "This is the very ecstasy of love". - (Act II, Scene I).
14. "Brevity is the soul of wit". - (Act II, Scene II).
15. "Doubt that the sun doth move, doubt truth to be a liar, but never doubt I love". - (Act II, Scene II).
17. "Do you think I am easier to be played on than a pipe?" - (Act III, Scene II).
18. "I will speak daggers to her, but use none". - (Act III, Scene II).
19. "When sorrows come, they come not single spies, but in battalions". - (Act IV, Scene V).

**THE GREAT GATSBY**

**DUE: Jan 2016**

I. **JOURNAL**: Explore the motivations of each of the main characters (Tom, Daisy, Nick, Jordan, Gatsby).

A. Make a chart with the characters’ names along the top and 5-10 examples (for each character) of events demonstrating greed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tom</th>
<th>Daisy</th>
<th>Nick</th>
<th>Jordan</th>
<th>Gatsby</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sells his car</td>
<td>Myrtle’s husband (overcharges him)(36)</td>
<td></td>
<td>cheats at a tournament to win the prize money (75)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

II. **RESEARCH PRESENTATION and ESSAY**: Due: TBA

In your groups, research *one of the motivations for greed*. Use at least ten sources from the library, eLibrary, books, and magazines. *In addition*, use findings/quotes from both of the readings above.

A. Write up your findings as a *formal research paper* (with quotes/citations); include a *works cited/consulted*. (50 pts.)

B. Make a *creative product (see below)* that captures the main argument of your research essay.

C. **Present** your findings to the class in an interesting, interactive presentation using your project and the facts from your research paper (do *NOT* just read the research paper).

III. **PRODUCT**: carefully constructed with an eye to public presentation: depicts the theme of greed through imagery, symbols, metaphors, and/or motifs. Due: TBA

A. With your group, create one of the following products. Reference the novels either directly or indirectly. (30 pts)

   **Project product options:**
   1. write a story about greed
   2. create a board game with the theme of greed
   3. debate the origins of greed
   4. perform a morality play about greed

B. **Written Reflection**: Write an explanation of how your product depicts greed through its use of imagery, symbols, metaphors, and/or motifs, why you selected the particular product, and how you constructed it. (10 pts)

C. **Oral Presentation**: oral version of your written reflection, clear, good presentation skills.(10 pts)

IV. **Literary Lenses**: Due: TBA
You will get a detailed assignment on the use of literary lenses with *Hamlet* and *The Great Gatsby*. You will work on it with your group and finish with an essay using the lens of your choice.
Hamlet

Act I Questions

1. Why is Hamlet -an educated man- so willing to accept the ghost?
2. Why does the ghost visit the guards first instead of Hamlet?
4. Why does Hamlet say all these things that have two meanings?
5. What does Marcellus mean when he says “something is rotten in the state of Denmark?”(I.iv.100)
6. Was Gertrude in on the king’s death all along? Explain.
7. Why won’t Claudius & Gertrude allow Hamlet to return to Wittenberg for school?
8. Why does the ghost want to spare Gertrude?
9. Why will the ghost only talk to Hamlet?
10. Why doesn’t the late king go to Claudius?
11. Why does Hamlet have to think about every little thing?

Act II Questions

1. Who are Rosencrantz and Guildenstern?
2. Why do R&G come to the castle?
3. What brilliant plan does Hamlet come up with to prove that Claudius killed Hamlet senior?
4. Why does Hamlet feel the need to prove it?

Act III Questions

1. What is the whole “To Be or Not To Be” soliloquy about?
2. Why does Polonius want to kill Hamlet?
3. Why does Hamlet tell Ophelia to get to a nunnery?
4. Is Hamlet’s plan involving the performance successful?
5. When Claudius is praying, why does Hamlet hold back from such an opportunity to avenge his father’s death?
7. At what point does he realize who is behind the arras (curtain)?
8. Does Hamlet realize how out of control he is (is it deliberate or madness)?
9. Why can’t Gertrude see the ghost but Marcellus and the guards could (as well as Hamlet)?
10. What event in the players’ performance finally sends Claudius jumping out of his seat?
11. Why does Claudius want to send Hamlet to England?
12. Why does Hamlet kill Polonius?

Act IV Questions

1. What is King Claudius’ reaction to Polonius’ death?
2. What happens to Hamlet on the way to England?
3. What happens to Ophelia after she discovers Polonius’ death?
4. What upsets Laertes so much about his father’s death when he arrives in Denmark again?
5. a) What do Claudius and Laertes plan to do to Hamlet?
   b) How will they do it?
6. How does Ophelia die?

Act V Questions

1. Who is buried in Act V, scene i?
2. Who dies first in Act V, scene ii?
3. Who dies last, and why is he/she last?
4. Who is Yorick?
5. How do both Laertes and Hamlet die during the duel?
6. How does Hamlet get his revenge on Rosencrantz and Guildenstern?
7. How does Queen Gertrude die?
8. Why doesn’t Claudius warn Gertrude that the drink is poisoned?