Sanity vs.

Name:
Teacher:
Class:
Date:

- Before Reading Act III -

I. **Sane or Insane?** Read the following quotes from Act III and determine if Hamlet is indeed mad or just pretending to be:

________ “What he spake, though it lack’d form a little, was not like madness. There’s something in his soul, o’er which his melancholy sits on brood; and I do doubt the hatch and the disclose will be some danger” (Polonius 3:1:163-167).

________ “Make you a wholesome answer. My wit’s diseased” (Hamlet 3:2:321).

________ “Call me what instrument you will, though you can fret me, yet you cannot play upon me” (Hamlet 3:2:370-372).

________ “Let me be cruel, not unnatural: I will speak daggers to her, but use none” (Hamlet 3:2:395-396).

________ “I like him not, nor stands it safe with us to let his madness range” (Claudius 3:3:1-2).

________ “I essentially am not in madness, but mad in craft” (Hamlet 3:4:187-188).
SCENE ONE
1. Why does Hamlet assume madness in his interview with Ophelia and speak so harshly to her?

2. What is the tone of Ophelia’s soliloquy?

3. What does Claudius think is the cause of Hamlet’s madness? What does Polonius think?
SCENE TWO
4. Summarize the advice Hamlet gives to the players. Why did Shakespeare include this in the play?

5. What is the emphasis of Hamlet's soliloquy at the close of Scene 2?
SCENE THREE
6. In his soliloquy in Scene 3, what does the king reveal of the murder? His mental and moral condition?

7. What are Hamlet’s reasons for not killing the king when he finds him alone, praying? Why is this ironic?
8. What is the setting of Scene 4? Where is Polonius? What happens to him?

9. What does Hamlet ask his mother? What two people does he compare?
1. **“Though this be madness, yet there is method in ‘t” (2:2:195-196).** What looks like madness to an outsider, may make perfect sense to someone else. Briefly explain how this quote relates to Hamlet’s situation and how it supports the adage, “You don’t know someone ‘til you’ve walked a mile in their shoes.” Is Hamlet insane? Provide supporting evidence in your response. **Minimum 5 sentences.**
In Act III, Hamlet delivers his most memorable soliloquy where he discusses life and death (3:1:64-96). For this task, reread the soliloquy and compare it to the lyrics of the song, “Last Resort” by Papa Roach.
Choose 3 sections (from each genre) that are similar in idea, tone, or theme and highlight them in 3 distinct colors. Then on the lines provided, explain each comparison.
Comparison Explanation #1:
TO
BE
OR
NOT
TO
BE
To be, or not to be--that is the question:

Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer

The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune

Or to take arms against a sea of troubles

And by opposing end them. To die, to sleep--

No more--and by a sleep to say we end

The heartache, and the thousand natural shocks

That flesh is heir to. 'tis a consummation

Devoutly to be wished. To die, to sleep--

To sleep--perchance to dream: ay, there's the rub,

For in that sleep of death what dreams may come

When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,

Must give us pause. There's the respect

That makes calamity of so long life.

For who would bear the whips and scorns of time,

Th' oppressor's wrong, the proud man's contumely

The pangs of despised love, the law's delay,
The insolence of office, and the spurns
That patient merit of the unworthy takes,
When he himself might his quietus make
With a bare bodkin? Who would fardels bear,
To grunt and sweat under a weary life,                   85
But that the dread of something after death,
The undiscovered country, from whose bourn
No traveller returns, puzzles the will,
And makes us rather bear those ills we have
Than fly to others that we know not of?                90
Thus conscience does make cowards of us all,
And thus the native hue of resolution
Is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought,
And enterprise of great pitch and moment
With this regard their currents turn awry               95
And lose the name of action. -- Soft you now,
The fair Ophelia! -- Nymph, in thy orisons
Be all my sins remembered.
Cut my life into pieces
This is my last resort,
Suffocation, no breathing
Don't give a $@*! if I cut my arm bleeding

This is my last resort

Cut my life into pieces
I've reached my last resort,
Suffocation, no breathing
Don't give a $@*! if I cut my arm bleeding
Do you even care if I die bleeding?

Would it be wrong, would it be right?
If I took my life tonight,
Chances are that I might
Mutilation out of sight
And I'm contemplating suicide
'Cause I'm losing my sight, losing my mind
Wish somebody would tell me I'm fine
Losing my sight, losing my mind
Wish somebody would tell me I'm fine

I never realized I was spread too thin
'Til it was too late and I was empty within
Hungry, feeding on chaos and living in sin
Downward spiral, where do I begin?

It all started when I lost my mother
No love for myself and no love for another
Searching to find a love upon a higher level
Finding nothing but questions and devils
'Cause I'm losing my sight, losing my mind
Wish somebody would tell me I'm fine
Losing my sight, losing my mind
Wish somebody would tell me I'm fine

Nothing's alright, nothing is fine

I'm running and I'm crying
I'm crying [4x]
I can't go on living this way

Cut my life into pieces
This is my last resort,
Suffocation, no breathing
Don't give a $@*! if I cut my arm bleeding

Would it be wrong, would it be right?
If I took my life tonight,
Chances are that I might
Mutilation out of sight
And I'm contemplating suicide

'Cause I'm losing my sight, losing my mind
Wish somebody would tell me I'm fine
Losing my sight, losing my mind
Wish somebody would tell me I'm fine

Nothing's alright, nothing is fine

I'm running and I'm crying
I can't go on living this way

Can't go on, living this way, nothing's alright