



# Hamlet Close reading

Act 1 Scene 3



# *Polonius's speech to Laertes*



*There; my blessing with thee! And these few precepts  
in thy memory*

*See thou character. Give thy thoughts no tongue,  
Nor any unproportioned thought his act.*

*Be thou familiar, but by no means vulgar:*

*Those friends thou hast, and their adoption tried,  
Grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel;*

*But do not dull thy palm with entertainment  
Of each new-hatch'd, unfledged comrade. Beware*

*Of entrance to a quarrel, but being in,  
Bear't that the opposed may beware of thee.*

*Give every man thy ear, but few thy voice;  
Take each man's censure, but reserve thy judgment.*

*Costly thy habit as thy purse can buy,  
But not express'd in fancy; rich, not gaudy;*

*For the apparel oft proclaims the man,  
And they in France of the best rank and station*

*Are of a most select and generous chief in that.  
Neither a borrower nor a lender be;*

*For loan oft loses both itself and friend,  
And borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry.*

*This above all: to thine ownself be true,  
And it must follow, as the night the day,*

*Thou canst not then be false to any man.  
Farewell: my blessing season this in thee!*

There; my blessing with thee! And these few precepts in thy memory See thou character.

Polonius was giving his son Laertes his blessing to go to france but before he left he was giving him some advice that he wants him to remember and to consider his character.

Those friends thou hast, and their adoption tried,  
Grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel;  
But do not dull thy palm with entertainment  
Of each new-hatch'd, unfledged comrade.

He warned him about the newcomers. Don't shake all of their hands be friendly but not so inviting.

Polonius was giving his son advice of the world. He was telling him not to tell all that he is thinking or to put his actions out of proportion at any occasion. Be friendly and polite but too well known.

Give thy thoughts no tongue,  
Nor any unproportioned thought his act.  
Be thou familiar, but by no means vulgar.

## Beware

Of entrance to a quarrel, but being in,  
Bear't that the opposed may beware of thee.  
Give every man thy ear, but few thy voice;  
Take each man's censure, but reserve thy judgment.

He warned him to avoid getting into fights, but if he has to fight to his best effort. Hear everyone's opinions but tell few of his own reserve them.

Neither a borrower nor a lender be;  
For loan oft loses both itself and friend,  
And borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry.  
This above all: to thine ownself be true,  
And it must follow, as the night the day,  
Thou canst not then be false to any man.

Polonius stated Don't borrow or lend anything. Loans puts you and your relationships in a shaky place. Be true to yourself and don't be false to others.

Costly thy habit as thy purse can buy,  
But not express'd in fancy; rich, not gaudy;  
For the apparel oft proclaims the man,  
And they in France of the best rank and station  
Are of a most select and generous chief in that.

He wants him to dress well and look nice but not flamboyant. Don't be flashy and gaudy with the things he is wearing.

Farewell: my blessing season this in thee!



Polonius sends his  
blessing and well  
wishes to his son as  
he take on his  
journey.

# Sources!!!

- N.p., n.d. Web.
- "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare." *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*. N.p., n.d. Web. 01 Mar. 2013.