

Reduced Hamlet – Live & Unplugged



“The play’s the thing.”

You got a chance to see Hamlet “directing” a play. Now it’s your turn. As a class, with all students participating, you will create a “Reduced” version of Shakespeare’s Hamlet. Translation: figure out the important stuff and put it in a 5-minute production of Hamlet, demonstrating your mastery of this text. Yes, it’s for me, an audience of one. And, yes, I’ll be in the pit with a sack full of rotten tomatoes in case I don’t like what I see (“Something’s rotten in my tomato?”)

- Refer, of course, to your plot notes about what’s important – this includes “loud lines” & “Things to pay attention to....”
- Figure out who will play what roles (Bards, director, actors, etc.)
- Feel free to use props (I can teach you how to make paper swords)
- Give me a finished copy of your script
- Suggestion 1: combine modern language, setting, dress with Willie’s language (e.g. “Dude, thou art slain.”)
- Suggestion 2: You’ve got 5 acts in 5 minutes → figure it out!

Here’s the schedule we’ll follow:

- Day 1: Research & Write
- Day 2: Practice & Perform

Enjoy!