**Respond to the following questions. Provide detail, examples, and explanations from the play.**

**Act I.ii**

1. Describe the atmosphere in this scene, and explain how it is created. How does It pique our interest in the play?
2. What reasons does Horatio suggest for the appearance of the late King’s ghost?
3. Who is Fortinbras? Why are the soldiers on watch in Denmark?
4. Look at Shakespeare’s stagecraft. What techniques does Shakespeare use to emphasize how impressive and awe-inspiring the Ghost of Old Hamlet is?
5. Find at least ONE example of each of these key themes:

a. Appearance vs. Reality

b. Disorder

c. Revenge

**Act I .ii**

1. Who are Old Fortinbras and Young Fortinbras? What threat do they pose, and how is Claudius responding to the threat?
2. Based on his first 64 lines in office, how would you rate Claudius as a ruler? In what ways does he already differ from Old Hamlet as king? (E.g. Consider how Old Hamlet would have responded to Young Fortinbras.)
3. Read Hamlet’s first soliloquy (1.2.129-59) carefully. What is it that is really bothering him about what has happened since his father’s death? How would you describe the tone of his feelings?
4. What is Hamlet’s response to the news from Horatio, Marcellus, and Bernardo? What does he suspect as the reason for the ghost’s appearance (1.2.254-57)? What do these two occurrences tell us about how his mind works at this point of the play?

**Act I.iii**

1. n your own words, summarize Laertes’ advice to Ophelia. Why is he giving her this advice? Explain his tone with support from the play.
2. What is the meaning of Ophelia’s words in lines 45-51?
3. How would you describe the way Laertes and Polonius speak to Ophelia? What does this suggest about how they view their relationship to her? Based on this encounter, how would you describe Ophelia?