



Hamlet

A Comparative Study of Act 3, Scene 1, "To Be, or Not to Be"

Fill in the chart by providing descriptive details about how each director and/or actor portrays the device in Act 3, scene 1, of *Hamlet*. Then write a response to the prompt below.

Device	Branagh	Almerezda/Hawke
Setting		
Depiction of Prince Hamlet		
Camera Angles and Lighting		
Symbolism/Imagery		

Device	Branagh	Almereyda/Hawke
Dramatic Expression		

Comparative Analysis Prompt

After watching Kenneth Branagh and Ethan Hawke each perform Hamlet's famous "To be, or not to be" soliloquy, write an essay comparing how the two versions use different strategies to convey Hamlet's inner conflict. You may wish to consider such elements as setting, the depiction of Prince Hamlet, camera angles and lighting, symbolic imagery, and dramatic expression in your response.

Your essay must:

- contain citations for all works included. Use the following bibliographic information for the films:

Branagh, Kenneth, director. *Hamlet*. Sony Pictures Entertainment, 1996.

Almereyda, Michael, director. *Hamlet*. Miramax Films, 2000.
- clearly and specifically demonstrate what is being compared.
- provide a clear and direct answer to the prompt.
- contain four body paragraphs exploring each device presented using a point-by-point comparison. The presentation must be written in a logical and parallel structure and use concrete descriptions from each film.
- contain a strong conclusion in which you consider the nature and purpose of the comparison and what it reveals about interpreting an author's (Shakespeare's) work.