



Hamlet An Analytical Summary

When you create an analytical summary, you use precise nouns and strong verbs as well as descriptive adverbs and adjectives to both summarize and analyze sections of a text.

Analytical verbs are verbs that, through their connotations, suggest a motivation or provide a more precise description of the subject's action or state of being.

Precise nouns are effective representations of the person, place, thing, idea, or event that is being described. For analytical summaries, using precise nouns helps to clearly convey the events in the story.

Adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs. Adverbs can be single words or phrases and clauses. Conjunctive adverbs such as *therefore*, *furthermore*, and *consequently* will help to create analysis. Adverbs answer the questions *When?*, *Where?*, *How?*, *How often?*, *How much?*, *To what degree?*, and *Why?*

Adjectives describe nouns and pronouns; they answer questions such as *What kind?*, *Which one?*, *How many?*, *What color?*, and *What size?*

Remember that including descriptive language provides precise details that can more effectively convey the summarized information.

Using the format presented, write a detailed yet concise summary of your chosen scene from *Hamlet*. As you write, focus on including precise and descriptive language that will help you explicitly illustrate the events and characterize the interplay of actions in the assigned section. Be sure to color-code the summary, identifying grammatical elements by marking precise nouns in purple, analytical verbs in blue, adverbs that lead to analysis in green, and descriptive adjectives in red.

(Note: it is not necessary to highlight every noun, verb, adverb, and adjective; just focus on words that help to more accurately depict the scene and create analysis.)

In column 1: Create and record a headline for your chosen scene, just like you would see in a newspaper. After the headline, record the act and scene you are summarizing.

In column 2: Write eight to twelve sentences summarizing the scene. Then, using markers or colored pens, follow the color coding as described above.

When you are done, exchange your summary with a partner and give feedback.

Headline	Summary and Analytical Statements

RL.11-12.1 Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

RL.11-12.2 Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text.

RL.11-12.3 Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama (e.g., where a story is set, how the action is ordered, how the characters are introduced and developed).

W.11-12.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

W.11-12.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)

W.11-12.10 Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Answer Key

Sample Student Response

Headline	Summary and Analytical Statements
To Thine Own Self Be True! Act 1, scene 3	At the beginning of Act 1, scene 3, Leartes announces his departure for France and advises his sister Ophelia to act cautiously in her dalliances with Prince Hamlet because he fears that even if Hamlet does truly love her, his royal obligations may compel him to marry for political purposes. Furthermore, Leartes fears for his sister's innocence and wishes to protect her virtue. Ophelia agrees to heed her brother's sage advice and suggests that he also follow it in order to avoid seeming like a hypocrite. Following this exchange, Polonius, the siblings' father, enters the scene, taking the role of advisor to his son. Polonius counsels Leartes to act thoughtfully and moderately in his interactions with others in order to present himself and his family favorably. Polonius concludes with a final truism, "to thine own self be true," suggesting that if Leartes is true to himself, he will not act falsely or improperly with others and, therefore, will not embarrass the family.