



Hamlet The Language of Revenge and Guilt

Vocabulary related to revenge and guilt abounds in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Better understanding this language will strengthen your overall comprehension of the themes, characters, and actions in the play.

In column 1: Read the term from *Hamlet*.

In column 2: Read the quote in which the term is found.

In column 3: Record the definition of the term based on context.

In column 4: Record the definition of the term as provided by a dictionary.

Term	Quote from the Play	Definition Based on Context	Definition from Dictionary
afflict	As oft as any passion under heaven / That does afflict our natures. (No Fear: 2.1.105–106)	<i>affect in a negative way</i>	<i>to cause suffering or discomfort</i>
calamity	There's the respect / That makes calamity of so long life. (No Fear: 3.1.69–70)		
contagion	When churchyards yawn and hell itself breathes out / Contagion to this world. (No Fear: 3.2.352)		
discretion	As it is common for the younger sort / To lack discretion . (No Fear: 2.1.116–117)		

envenom	Did Hamlet so envenom with his envy / That he could nothing do but wish and beg / Your sudden coming o'er (No Fear: 4.7.100–102)		
expostulate	My liege and madam, to expostulate / What majesty should be, what duty is, / Why day is day, night night, and time is time (No Fear: 2.2.88–90)		
impotent	[W]e have here writ / To Norway, uncle of young Fortinbras— / Who, impotent and bedrid, scarcely hears / Of this his nephew's purpose (No Fear: 1.2.27–30)		
incensed	'Tis dangerous when the baser nature comes / Between the pass and fell incensed points / Of mighty opposites. (No Fear: 5.2.64–66)		
knaveish	A knaveish speech sleeps in a foolish ear. (No Fear: 4.2.23)		
obsequious	In filial obligation for some term / To do obsequious sorrow. (No Fear: 1.2.91–92)		

repent	For this same lord / I do repent . But heaven hath pleased it so, / To punish me[.] (No Fear: 3.4.175–177)		
requiem	We should profane the service of the dead / To sing a requiem and such rest to her (No Fear: 5.1.211–212)		
salvation	When he is drunk asleep, or in his rage . . . / At game a-swearing, or about some act / That has no relish of salvation in 't— /Then trip him, that his heels may kick at heaven[.] (No Fear: 3.3.90–94)		
tedious	These tedious old fools! (No Fear: 2.2.209)		
verity	But in the verity of extolment, I take him to be a soul of great article (No Fear: 5.2.120)		

RL.11–12.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language evokes a sense of time and place; how it sets a formal or informal tone).

L.11–12.4 Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on *grades 11–12 reading and content*, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.