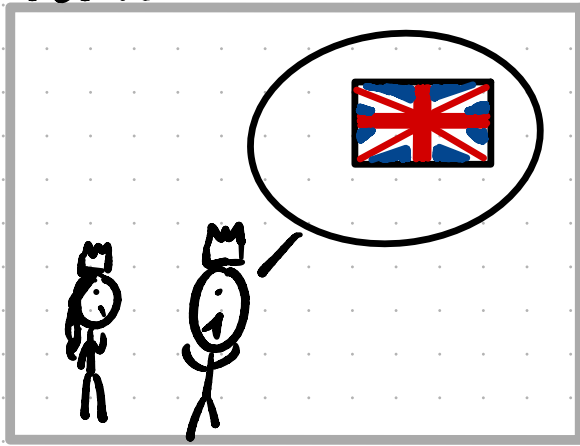


HAMLET ACT IV: Plotline I

Scene 1

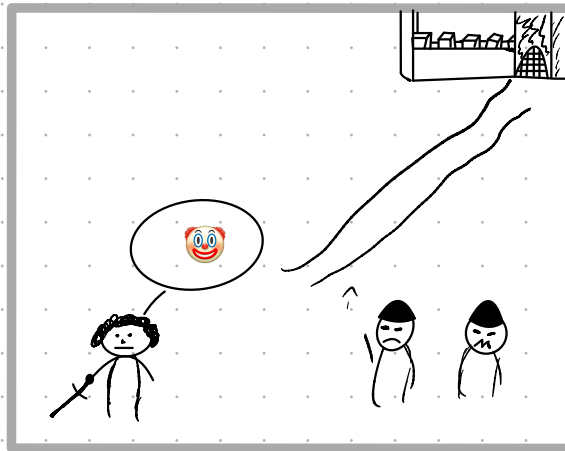


- Gertrude tells Claudius that Hamlet killed Polonius

- Claudius wants to ship Hamlet to England.
→ he decides to have him killed there

- Claudius sends Rosenkranz & Guildenstern to find the dead body

Scene 2



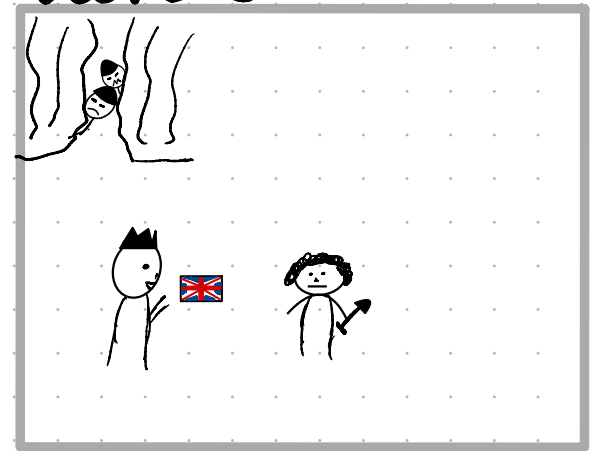
- Rosenkranz & Guildenstern meet Hamlet and ask him where he hid the dead body

- Hamlet doesn't give them a serious answer

→ instead he insults the king as a "thing"

- Despite everything Hamlet allows himself to be taken to the king Claudius

Scene 3



- the king speaks to a group of attendants, informing them about Polonius' death and his intentions to send Hamlet to England

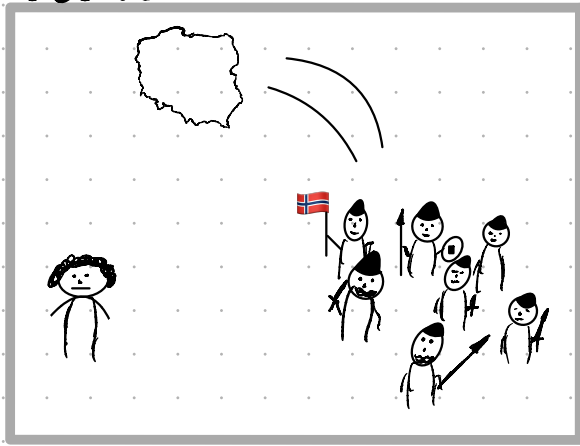
- Hamlet tells Claudius, that he has buried the body

- Claudius recommends Hamlet, that he should go to England and Hamlet immediately agrees

- Claudius orders Rosenkranz and Guildenstern to follow Hamlet

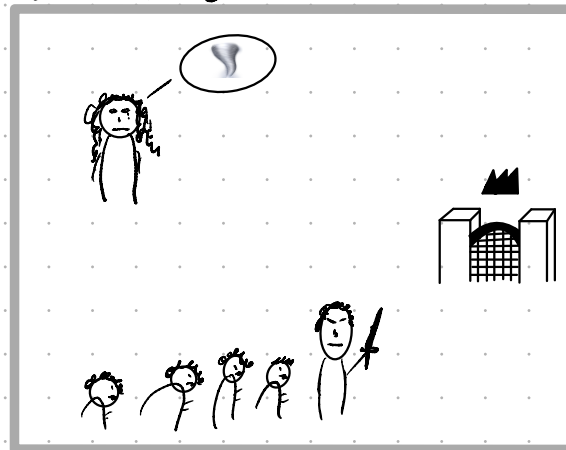
HAMLET ACT IV : Plotline II

Scene 4



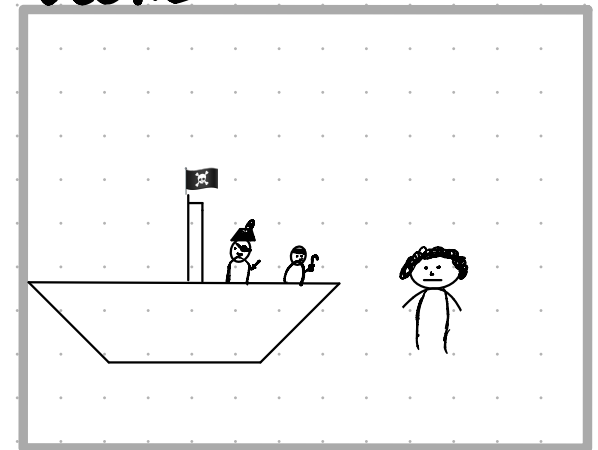
- on the way to England Hamlet meets the troops of the Norwegian King Fortinbras
- the troops are on their way to Poland to wage war
↳ they want to win honor
- Hamlet decides to take revenge on Claudius for his father

Scene 5



- the courtier tells Gertrude that Ophelia is demanding to meet with her
- Ophelia is insane because of her father's death
- Horatio should take care of her
- Laertes returns from France
- he storms the castle of Claudius with his troops, because he thinks that Claudius murdered his father
- Laertes worries about his sister
- Claudius assures them to find the real murderer

Scene 6



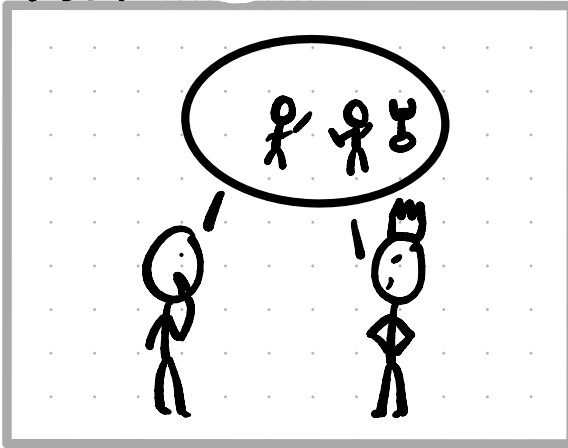
- Sailors want to speak to Horatio to give him a letter from Hamlet
- Hamlet reports that he was attacked by pirates on his way back to Denmark
- He asks Horatio to send some letters to Claudius
- After that, Hamlet is keen to meet Horatio

HAMLET ACT

IV

Plotline III

Scene 7



- Laertes is convinced of Claudius' innocence
 - they are making a plan how to kill Hamlet
 - Plan: they are planning to engage him to a fencing duel with a sharp and poisoned weapon
 - or with a poisoned wine
-
-
-

HAMLET ACT IV: Background information

Conflict

- Gertrude tells Claudius that Hamlet killed Polonius.
- On top of being worried about the crisis in Denmark, Claudius still has to deal with Hamlet and therefore he wants to expel him to England and plans to have him executed upon his arrival.
- Laertes arrives at the castle accompanied by a mob, which is demanding for Laertes to replace Claudius as king
- Claudius informs Laertes about his father's death and Claudius manages to win him over and make him a part of his plan to get rid of Hamlet
- They plot to poison Hamlet during a duel with a sword or a manipulated drink (if he wins the duel)
- Ophelia drowns
- After learning about Ophelia's death, Laertes is even more encouraged to execute the revenge plan against Hamlet

Role of Women

- "Where is your son?" - King Claudius, p. 111/L. 6
- Claudius (men) is not involved in Hamlet's upbringing, even though he is his stepfather/uncle, it is solely Gertrude, who is responsible for raising Hamlet
- "By cock they are to blame. Quoth she, "Before you tumbled me, you promised me to wed." He answers: "So would I ha' done, by yonder sun, an thou hadst not come to my bed." - Ophelia, p. 135/L. 93-98
- it is suggested, that Ophelia was blinded by Hamlet's false/loose promises and that they had premarital intercourse, which would mean that she is now worthless and dishonoured and no men will take her as a wife anymore

Fate vs. Free Will

- "How stand I men, that have a father killed, a mother stained, Excitements of my reason and my blood, and let all sleep!" - Hamlet, p. 133/L. 80-83
- fate: on his way to England Hamlet crosses the troops of the Norwegian King Fortinbras
- free will: the soldiers' devotion to fight for such a small piece of land, which could cost them their lives awakens new rage/lust for revenge in Hamlet and he decides to go through with his plan to kill Claudius and avenge his father

Morality

- "Laertes, was your father dear to you? Or are you like the painting of a sorrow, a face without a heart?" - Claudius, p. 153/L. 149 f.
- asking for Laertes' determination, will avenge his father's death?
- plotting to turn him against Hamlet
- "O, for two special reasons, [...] The Queen his mother [...] the great love the general gender bear him" - Claudius, p. 150/L. 15 ff.
- Claudius does not go against Hamlet himself.
1. Gertrude loves Hamlet and she is important to Claudius
 2. The citizens sympathize with Hamlet and he does not want to risk the Danish to turn against him