

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead
Tom Stoppard

Act 2 Questions

- 1.) How many questions did Hamlet ask? How many answers did he give? Is this play about questions? Are we in an age of questions?

- 2.) What does it suggest about destiny when a coin for tossing is lost (i.e. – out of their hands)?

- 3.) What is the philosophy of the Player (64-66) as you discover it in his conversations with Rosencrantz and Guildenstern? How is his philosophy different from theirs?

- 4.) “Life in a box is better than no life at all.” Examine Rosencrantz’s statement. What does it suggest about what he values? Tie this metaphor to the questions game. What expands in the box we call life? What keeps the box small?

- 5.) “Events must play themselves out to be aesthetic, moral, and logical conclusions.” Does *Hamlet*? Does this play seem to be moving toward these conclusions? How is the play *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern* logical, aesthetically satisfying?

- 6.) On pg. 82, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are watching a play within a play (within a play?) where they learn of their own deaths. How do they react? What does this reaction suggest? Guil insists death cannot be acted. What is significant about the sequence of these events of foreshadowing and denial?