

*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*  
*Tom Stoppard*

Act 3 Questions

- 1.) Why is life on a boat comforting Guildenstern? Is his view existential in nature?
  
- 2.) Why does Rosencrantz's having a coin in both hands not please Guildenstern?
  
- 3.) Note differences in Rosencrantz and Guildenstern's response to the letter mandating Hamlet should be killed. How do both deal with the dilemma of the imminent death of one of their friends? Characterize their responses with adjectives.
  
- 4.) What is Rosencrantz and Guildenstern's response to Hamlet's disappearance? Does their response seem existential?
  
- 5.) Without Hamlet, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are more adrift and purposeless than ever. They open the letter and see their own execution order. On critic said, "Stoppard's decision to have Rosencrantz and Guildenstern see the execution order and dumbly accept it makes them fools." Do you agree? Why do they accept their fate? Do they have a choice? Do they have more options in this play than they did in *Hamlet*?
  
- 6.) How does the Player attempt to demonstrate that art has greater reality than life? What does his "death" suggest about accepting appearances for truth?
  
- 7.) What is the significance of death taking Rosencrantz and Guildenstern mid-sentence?