**Act 2, scene 2 – ‘Hamlet’**

Lines 1-40 – Claudius sets up Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to spy on Hamlet

Lines 41-85 – The ambassadors report on a successful visit to Norway

Lines 86-165 – Polonius claims Hamlet loves Ophelia and proposes to used her in a plot to spy on Hamlet

166-213 – Hamlet insults Polonius, under the guide of madness (maybe)

214-358 – Rosencrantz and Guildenstern tell Hamlet the players (a group of actors) are coming

359-471 – Hamlet welcomes the players and listens to a speech about Pyrrhus, a Greek warrior during the Trojan War, who kills Priam in revenge for killing his own father. He then asks for another about Hecuba, the grieving wife of Priam.

472-485 – Hamlet asks the First Player to speak new lines at tomorrow night’s performance

485-end – In soliloquy, Hamlet wonders at the contrast between the player’s faked emotion for Hecuba and his own ability to revenge. He plans to use tomorrow night’s play to find out if Claudius really is a murderer.

**1:** In this scene, we have discussed the theme of deception. This manifests itself in many forms. Looking at this brief summary of what happens in this long scene, **what different kinds of deception can you see?**

**2: Define the following:**

Meta-theatre –

‘Play-within-a-play’ –

**3: Research the story of Pyrrhus (also known as Neoptolemu) and Priam by reading this article by Madeline Miller (Summarise your understanding for future reference in note form)**

<http://www.madelinemiller.com/myth-of-the-week-pyrrhus-part-i/>