

# Investigate!

## *Hamlet: Act II*

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### ❖ **Act II, Scene i:**

- Focus on Polonius' behaviour in this scene. Make notes on:
  - the content of his speech to Reynaldo
  - the delivery of his speech
- What is suggested about the kind of man Polonius is?
- What do you feel about his reaction to the terrified Ophelia?

### ❖ **Act II, Scene ii:**

- Make a mind map/spider diagram/table of all the different characters and strands of plot which are now being introduced as the play moves to the central point of the action.
- What do you feel about the nature of the Danish court from what you observe in this scene?

- Look at Hamlet's soliloquy. In the first half of the speech Hamlet seems convinced that Claudius is a murderous villain, but he then decides he needs proof.
  - Why is Hamlet still vacillating? (There is no neat answer to this; critics have argued about it for centuries.)