

Katie Hopkins

ENGL 305

Outline

Hamlet, a Party Pooper

I. Introduction

- A. In the first half of *Hamlet*, Hamlet struggles to reconcile his current circumstances: he lives in a household where the head is his uncle, Claudius, who murdered his father, and then immediately remarried his mother, Gertrude. Hamlet's reality deeply affects him with excess emotion, making him unstable and his actions unpredictable. Like any human being, that emotion needs to be released, and with the performance of *Hamlet's* resident play-within-a-play, *The Mousetrap*, we see Hamlet's attempt to do this. *The Mousetrap* parodies Hamlet's reality in a way that is Carnavalesque, a term coined by Bakhtin and based off of the literary work of Rabelais, a contemporary of Shakespeare.

II. Bahktin Paragraph

- A. The point of a carnival is renewal, transfiguration
- B. But, they always end, things return to normal

III. How Hamlet emulates a carnival

IV. How it fails

- A. Hamlet doesn't become renewed, only his feelings only become amplified
- B. Things don't return to normal, they get even worse

C. Laughter isn't directed at himself, because he feels like he is the only one that is seeing things clearly

V. Conclusion