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Measure for Measure Questions

1. By heaven fond wretch, thou knows't not what thou speak'st,/ Or else thou art suborned against his honour/ In hateful practice. First, his intergrity/ Stands without blemish. Next, it imports not reason/ That with such vehemency he should pursue/ Faults proper to himself. (5.1 105-110).

In this scene, Isabella is explaining Angelo's terrible actions, but the Duke will not believe her. He says, "Confess the truth, and say by whose advice/ Thou cam'st here to complain" (5.1 113-114). Even though the Duke knows Angelo's actions, he pretends not to believe Isabella as a plan to help her and her brother. Why does he do this? Instead of actually doing his job, he sets up another scheme. What does this say about his character? Is he finally stepping up, or is he still hiding?

2. In Act 5, Scene 1, we learn some things about Mariana. We learn that she loves Angelo, even though he broke off their engagement. She pleads with the Duke to spare his life, which he does by Isabella's request. How are Mariana and Isabella different from one another? Who is seen as the stronger woman? Does one feel any sympathy for Mariana, who is in love with someone who does not feel the same way?
3. Whatsoever you may hear to the/ contrary, let Claudio be executed by four of the clock, and in/ the afternoon Barandine. For my better satisfaction, let me/ have Claudio's head sent me by five. Let this be duly per-/ formed, with a thought that

more depends on it than we must/ yet deliver. Thus fail not to do your office, as you will answer/ it at your peril. (4.2 111-117).

In Act 4 scene 2, Provost receives a letter from Angelo, explaining that Claudio should be executed, even though he thinks Isabella has slept with him. How does this show Angelo's true side? Throughout the play, many individuals question if Angelo is a true villain. Does one's view on Angelo change after this letter? What characteristics shine through in this particular passage?

4. Slandering a prince deserves it./ She, Claudio, that you wronged, look you restore./ Joy to you, Mariana. Love her, Angelo./ I have confessed her, and I know her virtue./ Thanks, good friend Escalus, for thy much goodness./ There's more behind that is more grate./ Thanks, Provost, for thy care and secrecy./ We shall employ thee in a worthier place./ Forgive him, Angelo, that brought you home/ The head of Raguesine for Claudio's./ Th'offence pardons itself. Dear Isabel,/ I have a motion much imports your good,/ Where to, if you'll a willing ear incline,/ What's mine is yours, and what is yours is mine./ So bring us to our palace, where we'll show/ What's yet behind that's meet you all should know. (5.1 517-532).

At the end of the play, the Duke makes a speech about how everyone can live happily and well. He tells Angelo to marry Mariana, Claudio to marry Juliet and professes his love for Isabella. This speech could be seen as the Duke fixing everything and making everyone happy. But is this a happy ending for everyone, like Mariana? Is this a happy ending for Isabella, who was supposed to becoming a nun? What does one think will happen to Isabella? Will she become a nun now that the Duke has declared his love?