

Text Comparison Homework Tool

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Directions: Read the selected quotes from “My Last Duchess,” *Hamlet*, and *A Room of One’s Own*. Explain how three of these quotes support a single central idea.

1. It would have been impossible, completely and entirely, for any woman to have written the plays of Shakespeare in the age of Shakespeare. (*A Room of One’s Own*, p. 48)
2. His [Hamlet’s] greatness weighed, his will is not his own, / For he himself is subject to his birth. (*Hamlet*, Act 1.3, lines 20–21)
3. For genius like Shakespeare’s is not born among labouring, uneducated, servile people. (*A Room of One’s Own*, p. 50)
4. She had / A heart—how shall I say?—too soon made glad, / Too easily impressed; she liked whate’er / She looked on, and her looks went everywhere. (“My Last Duchess,” lines 21–24)
5. Then weigh what loss your [Ophelia’s] honor may sustain / If with too credent ear you list his [Hamlet’s] songs / Or lose your heart or your chaste treasure open / To his unmastered importunity. / Fear it, Ophelia; fear it, my dear sister, / And keep you in the rear of your affection, / Out of the shot and danger of desire. (*Hamlet*, Act 1.3, lines 33–39)
6. [A]ny woman born with a great gift in the sixteenth century would certainly have gone crazed, shot herself, or ended her days in some lonely cottage outside the village, half witch, half wizard, feared and mocked at. (*A Room of One’s Own*, p. 51)
7. Be wary, then; best safety lies in fear. / Youth to itself rebels, though none else near. (*Hamlet*, Act 1.3, lines 47–48)
8. No girl could have walked to London and stood at a stage door and forced her way into the presence of actor-managers without doing herself a violence and suffering an anguish which may have been irrational – for chastity may be a fetish invented by certain societies for unknown reasons – but were none the less inevitable. (*A Room of One’s Own*, p. 51)
9. This grew; I gave commands; / Then all smiles stopped together. (“My Last Duchess,” lines 45–46)
10. To die: to sleep— / No more—and by a sleep to say we end / The heartache and the thousand natural shocks / That flesh is heir to—’tis a consummation / Devoutly to be wished. (*Hamlet*, Act 3.1, lines 68–72)
11. Had she survived, whatever she had written would have been twisted and deformed, issuing from a strained and morbid imagination. (*A Room of One’s Own*, p. 51)
12. What is a man / If his chief good and market of his time / Be but to sleep and feed? A beast, no more. (*Hamlet*, Act 4.4, lines 35–37)
13. The Count your master’s known munificence / Is ample warrant that no just pretence / Of mine for dowry will be disallowed; / Though his fair daughter’s self, as I avowed / At starting, is my object. (“My Last Duchess,” lines 49–53)