



### Charlotte Byram's Revision Exhibit

For my personal revision, I chose the first body paragraph of “On Violets, Frosts” and “A Specifically Unfortunate Character.” I made the most grammatical mistakes and “awkward phrasing” in this paragraph, as well as a whopping contextual mistake: violets are a SPRING flower, and they die in the first frost of SPRING, not winter.

I'm not entirely sure how I missed that one. I also had weak verb usage and only okay sentence variation. This essay, though, is one of my favorite because I really became involved with the topic. I love symbolism, so I had a lot of fun trying to figure out all of the violets' meanings in relation to Ophelia. Revisions fixing content (namely, frosts) or just involving a lot of words will be made in note form, while revisions improving grammar, awkwardness, and sentence variation will be placed in the text in green.

First, violets represent Hamlet's love for Ophelia, as demonstrated in the first two passages mentioning ~~violets~~ the flower. In Act I, scene 3, Laertes warns Ophelia against being too friendly with Hamlet. “For Hamlet and the trifling of his favor,” Laertes says, “Hold it... A violet in the youth of primy nature, forward, not permanent, sweet, not lasting,” (864). Violets are well known for being a sweet, common flower. They grow just about everywhere, flourish just about everywhere, and make delightful presents from children. In ~~the~~ this passage, Laertes is instructing Ophelia to love Hamlet with the sweetness and childish delight of violets, or at least acknowledge the love as only a short-lived pleasure, because he knows that she does love him and likely, if he tries to tell her to do otherwise, she will only disobey him. Also, Hamlet seems to love Ophelia in return ~~and~~ Laertes is not stupid. He understands that if the two were to marry, Ophelia would be well taken care of and someday, would have the great honor of being Queen of Denmark. He is wary of Hamlet's temperament, though. Laertes knows that his family has not the prestige generally associated with future royalty (or any royalty for that matter) and he fears that Hamlet is merely using Ophelia. Now f For Laertes' second piece of advice! V : violets are known for being a delicate flower. As winter approaches frosts attack the land, (and it will surely and strongly in Denmark), they are some of the first flowers to wither and die. So, at the first frost of Hamlet's love (betrayal, waning, indifference, stupidity) or of Hamlet's

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Commented [CB2]: "grow" and "flourish" could be considered redundant, but I also like the distinction between being capable of existence, and being capable of existing so successfully as to FLOURISH

Commented [CB3]: period.

Commented [CB4]: SPRING!

personality (cruelty, insanity, indifference, stupidity), Ophelia's love for him is to wither and die like the once balmy and sweet violets. Laertes loves Ophelia. The last thing he wants for her, even in the face of possible wealth and prestige, is for her to be hurt, cast aside, or made a fool.

**Commented [CB5]:** , so as to never reach "summer" (sex, marriage, real love).

### **So here's the new, revised version!!**

Violets represent Hamlet's love for Ophelia, as demonstrated in the first two passages mentioning the flower. In Act I, scene 3, Laertes warns Ophelia against being too friendly with Hamlet. "For Hamlet and the trifling of his favor," Laertes says, "Hold it . . . A violet in the youth of primy nature, forward, not permanent, sweet, not lasting" (864). Violets are well known for being a sweet, common flower. They subsist just about everywhere, flourish just about everywhere, and make delightful presents from children. In this passage, Laertes is instructing Ophelia to love Hamlet with the sweetness and childish delight of violets, or at least acknowledge the love as only a short-lived pleasure, because he knows that she does love him and likely, if he tries to tell her to do otherwise, she will only disobey him. Also, Hamlet seems to love Ophelia in return. Laertes is not stupid. He understands that if the two were to marry, Ophelia would be well taken care of and someday, would have the great honor of being Queen of Denmark. He fears, though, and is wary of Hamlet's temperament. Laertes knows that his family has not the prestige generally associated with future royalty (or any royalty, for that matter) and he worries that Hamlet is merely using Ophelia. For Laertes' second piece of advice: violets are known for being a delicate flower. As spring frosts attack the land, they are some of the first flowers to wither and die. So, at the first frost of Hamlet's love (betrayal, waning, indifference, stupidity) or of Hamlet's personality (cruelty, insanity, indifference, stupidity), Ophelia's love for him is to wither and die like the once balmy and sweet violets. Laertes loves Ophelia. The last thing he wants for her, even in the face of possible wealth and prestige, is for her to be hurt, cast aside, or made a fool.