

The Tragedy of Hamlet: Prince of Denmark

by William Shakespeare

What is Tragedy?

- A play that shows the change in the protagonist's fortunes from good to bad.
- According to Aristotle a tragedy portrays "incidents arousing fear and pity."
- A **tragic hero** is a character who, though great, has a fatal flaw that causes the hero's demise.

What is catharsis?

- Originally this Greek term meant "cleansing."
- Aristototele likely used this "cleansing of emotion" to defend against Plato's criticism that drama wasn't good for people.

Can you name the
decisive masterpiece
of the Elizabethan
Stage?

MEL GIBSON

GLENN CLOSE



*The
extraordinary
telling
of a classic
tale*

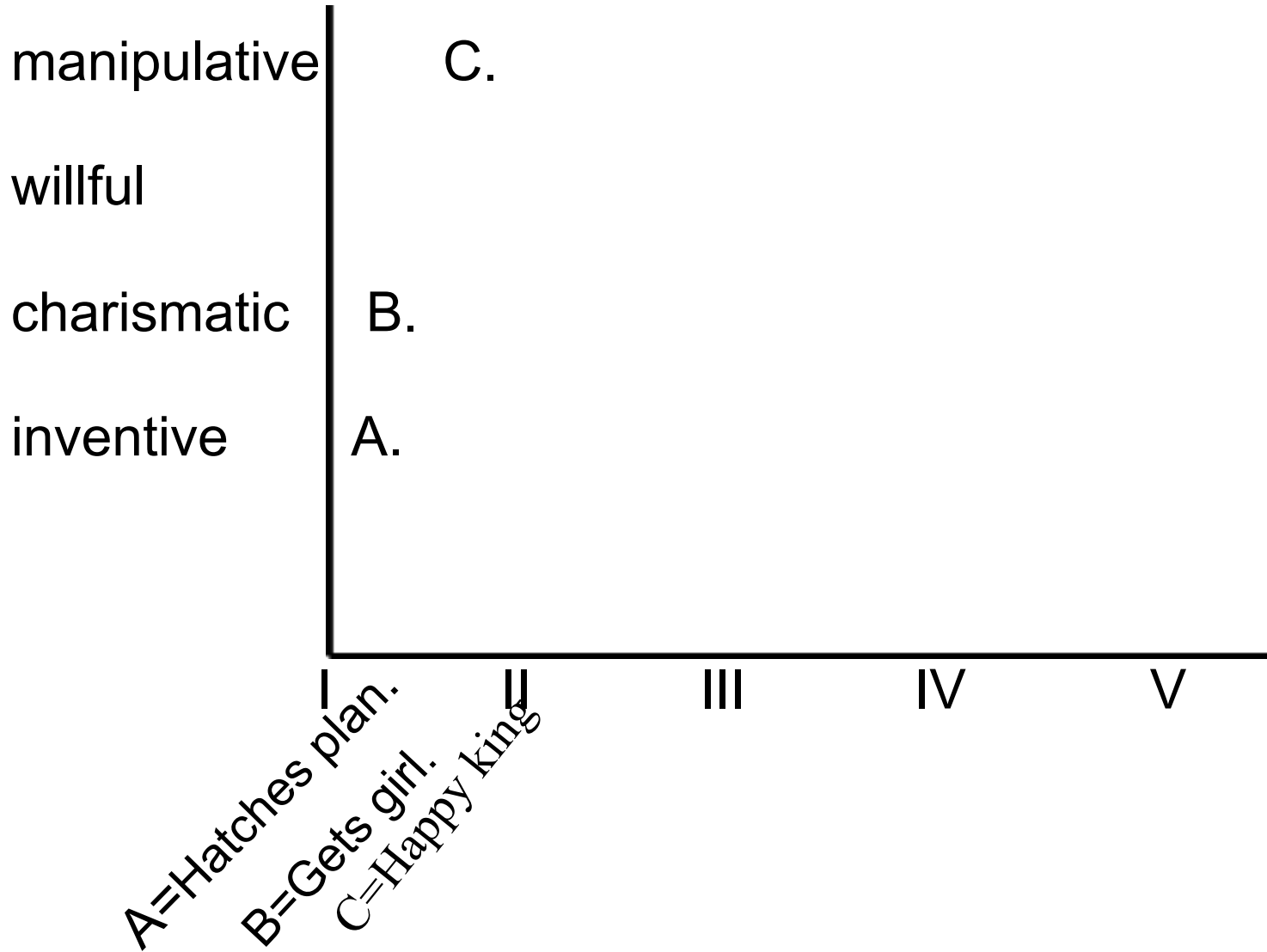
HAMLET



Overview of Unit

- Read one act each night. There will be a short 10 pt. quiz the following day. Bring at least one question, insightful comment, or "love the line" each day.
- Create a grid tracking one of the following:
 - Sanity of a character (Ophelia or Hamlet).
 - Signs of love or devotion.
 - Biblical allusions or inappropriate references.
 - Good advice.
 - Claudius as Machiavellian ruler. (20pts.)
- Memorize the "To be or not to be" speech.(20pts.)
- **Or** memorize a scene with another person, act it out for the class, using props and blocking.(20pts.)
- Take final essay test. (20 pts.)

Claudius: The Machiavellian Ruler



Rubric for *Hamlet* Chart

The Y axis shows your individual approach. _____/5

The X axis will list the 5 acts and at least 15
specific textual references. _____/5

Chart demonstrates a conclusion (thesis) based on
analysis of topic. _____/5

Presentation: art, construction, neatness. _____/5

Total _____/20