



THE STORY OF HAMLET TOLD THROUGH EMOTIONAL GROUPS

BY

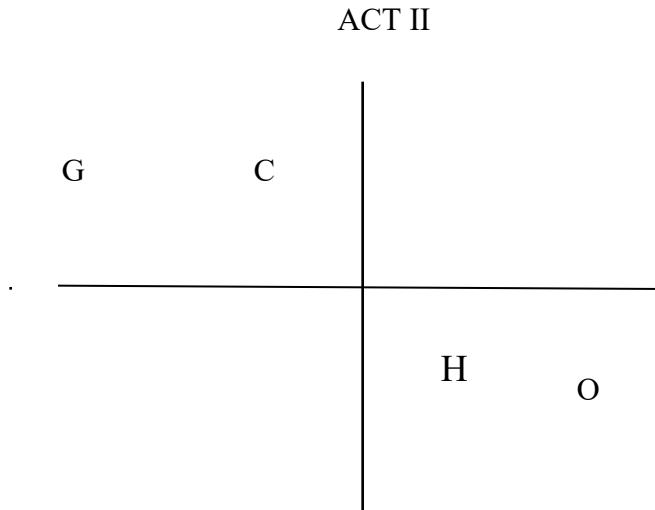
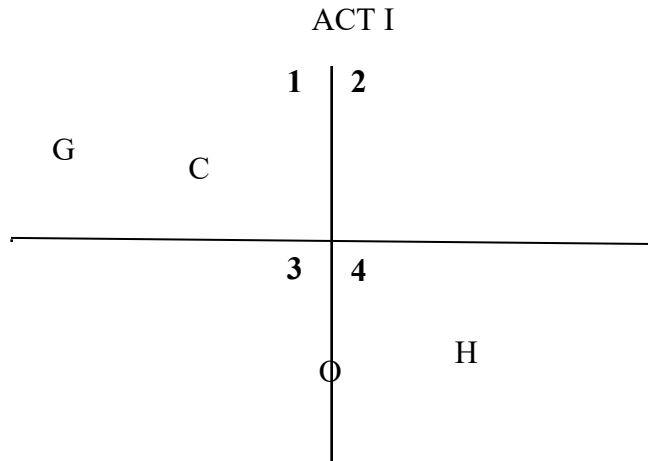
Sára Bányai

WHY I LIKE IT: *Poetry Editor HEZEKIAH writes...Here we have it, after long last, Hamlet graphically plotted--on X and Y axes no less. Permit me to attempt to explain, Sara Banyai has taken the tragedy and elevated it to a two dimensional 'group emotion' schema. In the first two acts we find Gertrude and Claudius operating in the "happiness" quadrant while Hamlet and Ophelia are tending to "confusion." In Acts III and IV, Hamlet becomes annoyed, even angry (but not mad), as Claudius and Gertrude become confused; and Ophelia moves from confusion to mostly, measurably tranquil, stealing the last scene. In Act V, Hamlet roughly assumes her coordinates surrounding the origin larger than life with a better part of rage and just a foot in serenity. Claudius and Gertrude straddle the annoyance and confusion axis as calm eludes them with Ophelia firmly affixed in peace. It is difficult to parse out the poet's voice, style, tone or even meter here, but it is edgy...I've never seen a piece of work with sharper corners. (Spacing is poet's own.)*

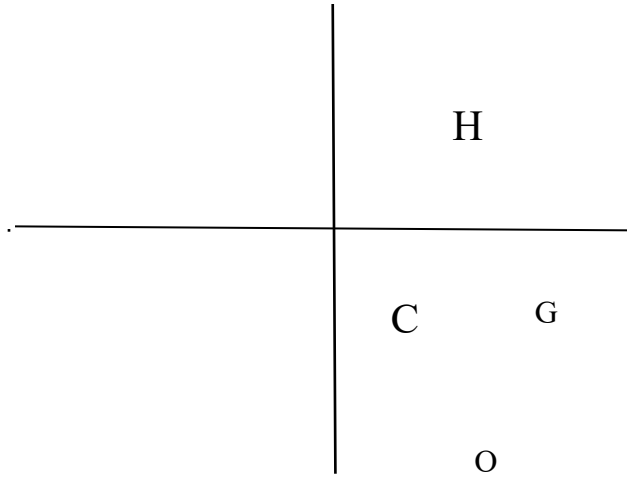
Five Stars

Hamlet (H)
Ophelia (O)
Gertrude (G)
Claudius (C)

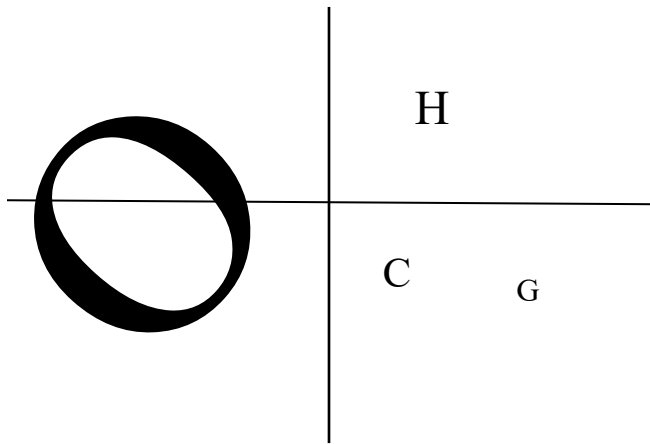
1. Happiness, Joy
2. Annoyance, Anger
3. Tranquillity, Peace
4. Confusion, Insecurity



ACT III



ACT IV



ACT V



THE POET SPEAKS: *'The story of Hamlet told through emotional groups' is born from an improvisation task and a bad knee. As I was sitting in the corner of the studio, watching bodies moving through space, transforming from emotion to emotion I wondered if the same could be done with text. Stories in their essence are very simple. The question arose; what happens if I break down one of the most well-known dramas into simple structures and emotions?*

Poetry is a tool to force definitions out of their shell of comfort. There are no finished concepts, but you can choose to swim in the clear water or dive deep into the dark. I prefer to hold in my breath as long as I can. I try to read as broadly as possible, but the two writers who have been playing ping pong in my head for a while are Ellen Savage and Antal Szerb.

AUTHOR BIO: Sára Bányai is a Hungarian performer and writer, who earned their degree in Theatre and Creative Writing from Lancaster University. Her works are published in Mono Fiction, Pulp Poets Press, Hobart, Rejection Letters and others. She is currently based in Malmö, looking for a cheap but sturdy backpack cover.