ANALYSIS OF HAMLET’S FAMOUS SOLILOQUY *“TO BE OR NOT TO BE”*

*ACT III, SCENE 1*

page 162 from the literature textbook

This piece of literature doesn’t have a title because it is an extract from a play.

Considering the structure, the intelligent reader notices that the text is organised into a paragraph.

The first line is in cursive and the fist word of the second line is written in capital letters.

We can also notice how each line is, overall, of the same length. The reader may now be curious as of why the author made these choices.

The text is a scene from Shakespeare’s tragic play Hamlet and thus features the typical element of a play. Also, this text is a soliloquy, a form of speech in a play where the character speaks as if he or she were alone, either because they don’t care about being heard or because they are oblivious to potential listeners.

In the soliloquy, Hamlet asks himself whether he should go on living or if he should commit suicide, or rather whether it is nobler to suffer from the hardships that come with a terrible fate and injustices or to fight against those cruel sufferings and end them by taking his own life.

Hamlet ponders then the possibility that death might bring new sufferings to a soul that lost its body, like a nightmare for a man that sleeps to avoid his problems.

The most important thing to keep in mind is that the question that Hamlet asks himself is not “to live or to die” but “TO BE OR NOT TO BE”, because being is not only living, but it is composed of all the things that mark someone’s existence.