

Hamlet, Act IV:vii by William Shakespeare

The plain script to work with. See the two other documents for this excerpt for markings of the 5-stress-4-beat pulse, word-rhythms and speech sounds, offered as suggestions by Kate Reese Hurd in light of her article, *Revealing the Music of Pentameter: Putting Shakespeare Through His Paces*, © September 2021.

QUEEN

One woe doth tread upon another's heel,
So fast they follow. Your sister's drowned, Laertes.

LAERTES Drowned! O, where?

QUEEN

There is a willow grows askant the brook,
That shows his hoar leaves in the glassy stream.
Therewith fantastic garlands did she make
Of crowflowers, nettles, daisies, and long purples,
That liberal shepherds give a grosser name,
But our cold maids do dead men's fingers call them.
There on the pendent bough her crownet weeds
Clamb'ring to hang, an envious sliver broke,

When down her weedy trophies and herself
Fell in the weeping brook. Her clothes spread wide,
And mermaid-like awhile they bore her up,
Which time she chanted snatches of old lauds,
As one incapable of her own distress, [unable to perceive]
Or like a creature native and indued
Unto that element. But long it could not be
Till that her garments, heavy with their drink,
Pulled the poor wretch from her melodious lay
To muddy death.

LAERTES Alas, then she is drowned?

QUEEN Drowned, drowned.

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QUEEN

.....
wOne ˇwoe ˇdoth xˉ-tread ˇup|on another's heel,
1 2 3 + 4

ˇSo fast they follow. ˇYour sister's |drowned, Laertes.
1 + (2) + 3 4

LAERTES Drowned! ˇO, |where?
1 (2) 3 4

QUEEN

There is a willow |xˉ-grows askant the brook, [alongside]
1 2 3 + 4

ˇThat xˉ-shows ˇhis hoar leaves |xˉ-in the glassy stream.
1 2 3 + 4

ˇTherewith ˇfantastic |garlands did she make
1 2 3 + 4

Ôf crowflow̄ers, nettles, |daisies, and ˇlong purples,
1 2 3 + 4

ˇThat lib̄eral xˉ-shepherds |xˉ-give a grosser name,
1 2 3 + 4

But our cold xˉ-maids do |dead men's fingers call them.
1 2 3 + 4

There on the pendent bough her |crownet weeds
1 2 + 3 4

xˉ-Clāmb'ring to hang, ˇan |envīous |xˉ-sliver broke,
1 2 3 + 4

ˇWhen down her weedy trophies |xˉ-and ˇherself
1 + 2 3 4

ˇFell in the weeping brook. ˇHer |clothes spread wide,
1 + 2 3 4

.....
And mermaid-like awhile ˇthey |bore ˇher up,
1 + 2 3 + 4

ˇWhich xˉ-time ˇshe chanted |xˉ-snatches ˇof old lauds,
1 2 3 uh 4

As xˉ-one incap̄able of her |xˉ-own ˇdistress, [unable to perceive]
1 2 + 3 4

Or ˇlike a creature |native and indued
1 2 3 + 4

ˇŪnto that el̄ement. But |long it could not be
1 + (2) 3 + 4

Till that her garments, |heavy with their drink,
1 2 3 + 4

xˉ-Pulled the poor wretch ˇfrom her me|lod̄ious lay
1 2 + 3 4

ˇTo muddy death.
1 + (2)

LAERTES A|las, then she is drowned?
3 + 4

QUEEN

Drowned, (2) |drowned.
1 3 4

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Markings of the sounds (for shaping, as repetitions, as reminders), word-rhythms and 5-stress-4-beat pulse are suggestions by Kate Reese Hurd in light of her article, *Revealing the Music of Pentameter: Putting Shakespeare Through His Paces*,[©] September 2021. As in music, the finer nuances of expression cannot be notated.

QUEEN

.....
°One °wōe °dōth °x-°tread °up|on °anōthēr's heel,
1 2 3 + 4

°Sō fast théy follōw. °Yōur sīstēr's |drōwned, Láértēs.
1 + (2) + 3 4

LAERTES Drōwned! °Ō, |whére?
1 (2) 3 4

QUEEN

Thére is a wīllōw |°grōws askānt *the* brōök, [alongside]
1 2 3 + 4

°Thāt °x-°shōws °hīs hōar leāves |°in *the* glāssy strēam.
1 2 3 + 4

°Therewith °fāntāstīc |°garlands dīd shē máke
1 2 3 + 4

Ōf crōwflōwers, nettles, |dáisies, and °long pūples,
1 2 3 + 4

°That líberal °x°shephérds |°gīve a grōssēr náme,
1 2 3 + 4

But ōur cōld °x-°máids do |dēad mēn's fīngers call *thēm*.
1 2 3 + 4

There on *the* pēndēt bōugh hēr |crōwnēt weeds
1 2 + 3 4

°Clāmb'ring to hāng, °ān |°ēnvīous |°slīvēr brōke,
1 2 3 + 4

°|Wh|en dōwn hēr wēedy trōphīes |°x-°and °hersèlf
1 + 2 3 4

°Fèll in *the* wēepīng brōök. °Hēr |clōthes spread wīde,
1 + 2 3 4

.....
And mērmáid-like a|wh|īle °théy |bōre °hēr up,
1 + 2 3 + 4

°|Wh|ich °x-°tīme °she chānted |°x°snatches °of ōld láuds,
1 2 3 uh 4

As °x-°one íncapable of hēr |°x-°ōwn °dīstress, [unable to perceive]
1 2 + 3 4

Or °like a creature |°nātive and índued
1 2 3 + 4

°Ūnto ^uthat èlēmēt. But |lōng it cōuld not be
1 + (2) 3 + 4

Till *that* hēr garmēnts, |hēavy with *their* drīnk,
1 2 3 + 4

°x-°Pūllēd *the* pōor wrēch °frōm hēr mē|lōdīous lay
1 2 + 3 4

°To muddy dēath.
1 + (2)

LAERTES Á|lās, *then* she is drōwned?
3 + 4

QUEEN

Drōwned, (2) |drōwned.
1 (2) 3 4