Hamlet, Act IV:vi

Hamlet, Act IV:vi 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.
Hamlet, Act IV:vii  by William Shakespeare

Markings of the 5-stress-4-beat pulse and word-rhythms are offered as 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 woe doth tread on 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 crowflows, 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
Clæmb'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 meodious lay
To muddy death.

LAERTES A las, then she is drowned?

QUEEN

Drowned, drowned.
Hamlet, Act IV:vi by William Shakespeare

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

“O woe doth tread on another’s heel,
Thy follow. Your sister’s drowned, Láertes.
Drowned! Ö, where?

Thére is a willow growths askant the brook, [alongside]
That shows his hoar leaves in the glassy stream.
Therewith fantastick garlands did she make
Of crow-flowers, 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 crowned weeds
Clambering 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 chantèd snatches of old lads,
As one incapable of her distress, [unable to perceive]
Or like a creature native and indued
Unto that element. But long it could not be
Till her garments, heavy with their drink,
Pulled the poor wretch from her melodious lay
To muddy death.

LAERTES À lâs, then she is drowned?

QUEEN Drowned. drowned.