

Student Essay on Was Ophelia Pregnant When She Died?

Was Ophelia Pregnant When She Died? by William Shakespeare

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Essay

Every person has their opinion about Ophelia being pregnant or not pregnant when she died. As you read my next few paragraphs maybe you can decide if you think she was or not. I personally think that Ophelia was pregnant.

There are a lot of things that come out to me from Hamlet that leads me to believe that Ophelia was most definitely pregnant when she died. The first thing that I remember that leads me to believe that is when Hamlet and Polonius are talking in Act II scene ii. Hamlet tells Polonius "Let her (Polonius' daughter, Ophelia) not walk i' the sun.

Conception is a blessing, but as your daughter may conceive, friend, look to't." This points out to me that Ophelia might be of conception and Hamlet is trying to tell Polonius to be careful with his daughter, watch her. People can disagree with that by saying that conception means understanding, but I see it as pregnancy.

Then there is a time when Ophelia is acting crazy singing and she sings "By Gis and by Saint Charity, Alack, and fie for shame! Young men will do't, if they come to't; By cock, they are to blame. Quoth she, 'Before you tumbled me, You promised me to wed.'" Then she pretends that he answers singing " 'So would I ha' done, by yonder sun, An thou hadst not come to my bed." I understand that to mean like Ophelia gave it up and had sex with Hamlet then he didn't want to marry her after he got what he was after. When she said "By cock, they are to blame," that just flat out tells me he is to blame, for her being pregnant.

There is one more reason I would like to point out. In the time that this play was written women who were pregnant before they were married usually drown'd themselves. That is how Ophelia died so one would assume that she was pregnant.

In the play Hamlet there is the question if Ophelia is pregnant or not when she died. I hope what I have written helped you decide on how you feel about it.