

Name:

1. a) I cannot blame him. At my nativity
The front of heaven was full of fiery shapes,
Of burning cressets, and at my birth
The frame and huge foundation of the earth
Shaked like a coward.
- b) This not well, my lord; this is not well
What say you to it? Will you again unknit
The churlish knot of all-abhorred war,
And move in that obedient orb again
Where you did give a fair and natural light,
And be no more an exhaled meteor,
A prodigy of fear, and a portent
Of broached mischief to the unborn times

Who are the speakers of the two passages and to whom are they speaking? Compare the use of similar images in the two speeches. (6 points)

2. There is a willow grows aslant a brook
That shows his hoar leaves in the glassy stream.
There with fantastic garlands did she come
Of crow-flowers, nettles, daisies, and long purples
That liberal shepherds give a grosser name,
But our cold maids to dead men's fingers call them.
There on the pendent boughs her coronet weed
Clambering to hang, an envious sliver broke;
When down the 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 tunes,
As one incapable of her own distress,
Or like a creature native and endued
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.

Thus does Gertrude describe Ophelia's death. Think of what kind of atmosphere they create, who says them, and how she says it. Carry out a close reading of the lines to suggest their significance.