



Tom Stoppard's, "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead" (hereafter R & G are dead), aroused great interest when it was first performed. Tom Stoppard has used Shakespeare's "Hamlet", to create an entirely new play out of ~~some~~ characters which already existed. Stoppard has taken the characters, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern out of the play "Hamlet", and put them into their own play in which they express new ideas. Stoppard has been able to successfully transform the play "Hamlet", through a variety of different ways and techniques. These will be described in the following essay.

Hamlet's ideas were based around the Elizabethian period, it was a society much different to when R & G are dead was written. The ideals and ~~was~~ opinions of Hamlet's society were shaped around hierarchy and supreme powers. However when R & G are dead was written, society was going



through a change. And like Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, they ^{people} were confused and lost in a busy world. Full of questions which ~~had~~ have no ~~any~~ answers.

So Stoppard transformed "Hamlet's" ~~two~~ ~~paired~~ ~~in~~ ~~time~~ character Rosencrantz and Guildenstern into a new play, in which they expressed their new values and ideas to say something new.

The characters Rosencrantz and Guildenstern in "Hamlet", have no real purpose, but to be there when Hamlet calls upon them.

In Stoppard's play, Stoppard takes this idea and transforms it into a whole play on its own, while still expressing the concerns and relevant feeling in society today. He makes a play in a play.

While Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are ~~still~~ performing in the play "Hamlet", we see the backstage parts where Rosencrantz



and ~~Q~~ Guildenstern are questioning their purpose in life, why they are here, and would their life end once the play of "Hamlet" no longer continued. These all the questions in which society, in the period in which Stoppard's play was written, were asking.

Therefore, Stoppard transformed the play "Hamlet", into a new play which said something new, however still using the same characters out of "Hamlet".

Stoppard has successfully transformed the earlier text, "Hamlet" into the contemporary text, "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead", to say something new, through expressing the different ideas of one society to another.