***Hamlet*: Intro**

Hamlet ---> Tragedy (1599-1601)

* Borrowed from previous stories – “Amleth” 12th c.
  + Amleth – Son of a Viking & Dec. of King of Denmark
  + Father killed, mom remarries, Amleth fakes idiocy & insanity
    - Tricks everyone, burns down palace
* Set in Elsinore, Denmark (14th – 15th c.)
  + Mostly takes place in & around castle
  + CAST:
    - Hamlet – Prince of Denmark
    - (mentioned) King Hamlet – Dead former King of Denmark (Hamlet’s dad)
    - Gertrude – Queen of Denmark (Hamlet’s mom)
    - Claudius – Current King of Denmark (King Hamlet’s brother)
    - Polonius – Nobleman, Right Hand of the King
    - Laertes – Polonius’ son
    - Ophelia – Polonius’ daughter (Hamlet’s girlfriend?)
    - Horatio – Hamlet’s best friend
    - Rosencrantz & Guildenstern – Hamlet’s childhood pals
    - Prince Fortinbras – Prince of Norway
    - (mentioned) King Fortinbras – Dead former King of Norway (Fortinbras’ dad)
    - Ghost

Written in response to / Under ideas of:

* + Revenge
  + 1563 Protestant Church decree of rejection of idea of purgatory & ghosts
    - Still popular belief
  + Rules for Marriage
    - Elizabeth I has Archbishop Parker create the list to prevent sinful behavior
    - Includes list of relatives who can’t marry
  + Humorism
    - Human body made up of 4 Elements
      * Phlegm, Blood, Yellow Bile, Black Bile