***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