**Hamlet – Discussion Questions**

**Act I, Scene 1**

1) Why does Horatio now believe Bernardo and Marcellus? What does Horatio notice about the physical appearance of the ghost?

2) What is important about Horatio’s allusion to Julius Caesar?

3) What is the significance of the opening scene?

**Act 1, Scene 2**

1) What is your first impression of Prince Hamlet? What dialogue clues have given you this impression?

2) What advice do Gertrude and Claudius give to Hamlet?

3) In lines 133 – 164, Hamlet gives his first soliloquy. What do we learn about Hamlet’s inner thoughts? What is meant by the allusion to Hercules?

**Act 1, Scene 3**

1) Summarize Laertes and Polonius’ advice.

2) What are some of Polonius’ lines that show that he is not very sympathetic to his daughter’s feelings towards Hamlet and Hamlet’s towards her? What do these lines mean?

3) Make a comparison between scene ii and iii.

**Act 1, Scene 4**

1) Does Hamlet support or censure the tradition that the king is taking part in (lines 15 – 41). Why?

2) What kind of motif is hidden in Marcellus’ dialogue in line 90?

**Act 1, Scene 5**

1) What does the ghost say about his presumed death and the actual murder?

2) The ghost has a long monologue in which he talks about his feelings towards Claudius, Hamlet’s mother, and his own death. Summarize what he tells Hamlet about each of these.

3) What does Hamlet make the other men (especially Horatio) promise at the end of this scene?