**Hamlet – Discussion Questions**

**Act II, Scene 1**

1) How does Polonius respond to his daughter?

2) Remember at the end of Act 1 that Hamlet made Horatio promise not to tell about Hamlet speaking with the ghost even if he started to act crazy? (1.5.190 – 192). Do you think that Hamlet is faking this crazy scene with Ophelia or is he really distraught that she has been ignoring him?

**Act II, Scene 2**

1) In this scene we are introduced to the characters of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, two of Hamlet’s friends from Wittenberg. Why have these men been summoned to Denmark? In lines 1 – 26, what do the king and queen say to these two characters?

2) How is the problem of young Fortinbras solved? What concession has Norway made to quiet young Fortinbras?

3) What is Polonius’s plan for testing his theory that Hamlet is love-crazy?

4) How does Hamlet appear mad as he is speaking to Polonius? What is revealed in the conversation?

5)What is said in the conversation between Hamlet and Rosencrantz and Guildenstern?

6) What does Hamlet’s dislogue, “But my uncle-father and aunt-mother are deceived…/ I am but mad north-north-west. / When the wind is southerly, I know a hawk from a handsaw” say about his madness?

7) What arrangement does Hamlet make with the players? What are his intentions?

8) How does this soliloquy ("O what a rogue and peasant slave am I") contribute to the plot, characterization and atmosphere of the play so far?