The Ascension of the Tudor family marks the traditional beginning of the British Renaissance. During this period, writers reimagined stories from ancient Greece and Rome, often commenting on the politics and culture of their own time. The highlight of the British Renaissance is the Elizabethan era, during which William Shakespeare enjoyed the height of his career.
Poems of Sir Thomas Wyatt (1503-1542)

_The Book of Common Prayer_, 1549

_A Defence of Poesie_, Sir Philip Sidney, before 1583

_The Faerie Queene_, Edmund Spencer, 1590, 1596

_The Spanish Tragedy_, Thomas Kyd, 1592

_Doctor Faustus_, Christopher Marlowe, 1592

“The Nymph’s Reply to the Shepherd,”
Sir Walter Raleigh, 1596

_Hamlet_, William Shakespeare, 1601

“An Anatomy of the World,” John Donne, 1611

_The Tragedy of Mariam_, Elizabeth Cary, 1613

_The Duchess of Malfi_, John Webster, 1614

The First Folio of Shakespeare’s Complete Works, 1623

_Tis Pity She’s a Whore_, John Ford, 1629-1633

_Paradise Lost_, John Milton, 1667