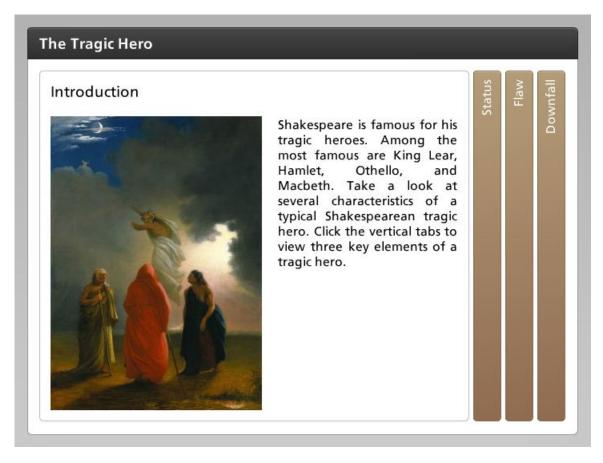
Introduction



Shakespeare is famous for his tragic heroes. Among the most famous are King Lear, Hamlet, Othello, and Macbeth. Take a look at several characteristics of a typical Shakespearean tragic hero. Click the vertical tabs to view three key elements of a tragic hero.



Status

Status	Status	Flaw	fall
Sta	A Shakespearean hero is often a king, nobleman, military leader, or some other person of high status in society. Other characters look up to the hero because he or she represents the ideals of society and is still in good standing. However, because of the hero's tragic flaw, many characters eventually lose their trust in the hero and often suffer the consequences of the hero's mistakes.		Downfa

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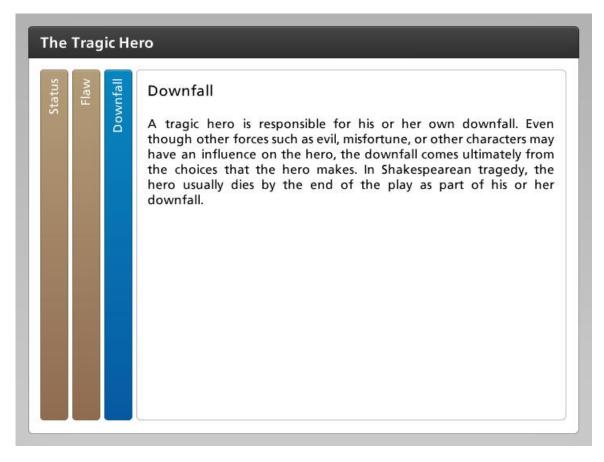
Flaw

Status Flaw	Flaw The hero in a Shakespearean tragedy always has a fundamental tragic flaw. A moral or personal weakness, the tragic flaw gradually becomes the sole occupying focus of the protagonist, ultimately leading to the hero's downfall. Some examples of tragic flaws include jealousy, pride, cowardice, and ambition.
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Downfall



A tragic hero is responsible for his or her own downfall. Even though other forces such as evil, misfortune, or other characters may have an influence on the hero, the downfall comes ultimately from the choices that the hero makes. In Shakespearean tragedy, the hero usually dies by the end of the play as part of his or her downfall.

