

Module 4: Examining Love, Friendship, and Power

Topic 5 Content: Shakespearean Tragedy


Introduction

Shakespearean Tragedy

- Tragic Hero
- Tragic Flaw
- Reversal of Fortune
- Catharsis
- Restoration of Social Order

Introduction

Click the tabs to examine five elements of Shakespearean tragedy.



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Tragic Hero

Shakespearean Tragedy

Tragic Hero

Tragic Hero

The tragic hero is a character who is exceptional by nature and considered better than the average person. The audience tends to look up to the hero because he or she shows potential for greatness.



Tragic Flaw

Reversal of Fortune

Catharsis

Restoration of Social Order

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Tragic Flaw

Shakespearean Tragedy

Tragic Hero

Tragic Flaw

Reversal of Fortune

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Restoration of Social Order

Tragic Flaw

The tragic hero is nearly perfect, but there is a moral or personal weakness that ultimately leads to a downfall. This tragic flaw becomes the impetus for the hero's fall from grace and the driving force behind the plot.



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Reversal of Fortune

Shakespearean Tragedy

Tragic Hero

Tragic Flaw


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Reversal of Fortune

Within the plot, there is a dramatic change in the direction of events in which the tragic hero makes a decision that changes his or her fortune. In a tragedy, this decision is based on the tragic flaw and leads to consequences that will ultimately be fatal.



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Catharsis

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Catharsis

The hero's downfall evokes both pity and fear in the audience. However, these emotions are purged in the moment of catharsis in which the hero finally understands his or her flaws and errors. With the release of emotions, the catharsis leaves the audience wiser and calmer after such a tragic end.



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Restoration of Social Order

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Restoration of Social Order

Even though the hero suffers a tragic end, the rest of society is eventually restored to order and peace after the hero's downfall.



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