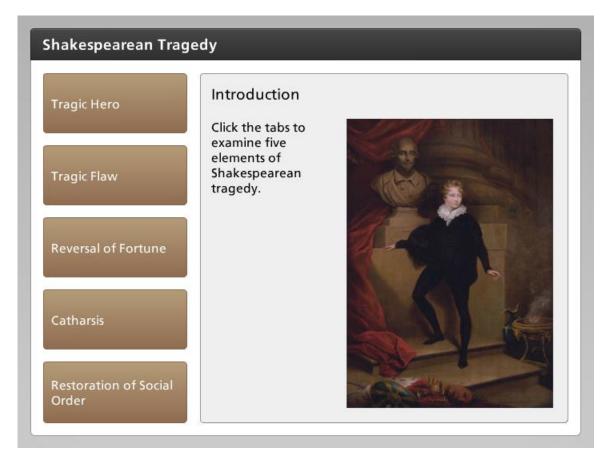
Introduction



Click the tabs to examine five elements of Shakespearean tragedy.



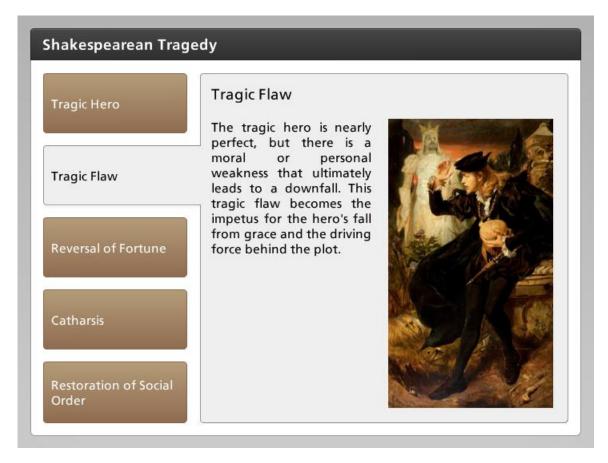
Tragic Hero

Tragic Hero	Tragic Hero	
	The tragic hero is a character who is	
Tragic Flaw	exceptional by nature and considered better than the average person. The audience	
Reversal of Fortune	tends to look up to the hero because he or she shows potential for greatness.	
Catharsis		
Restoration of Social Order		

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



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.



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.



Catharsis

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

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.



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.

