



Tragic Hero Notes



Paper no 12

Four Major Criteria for a Tragic Hero

- | Is a flawed character with some goodness but suffers a downfall due to a tragic flaw. This tragic flaw is typically **hubris** or excessive pride carried to the point of folly.
- | Is usually the protagonist of the play
- | Is of noble birth and/or exhibits wisdom
- | Suffers a reversal of fortune brought on by his tragic flaw/error in judgment.

Shakespeare's Tragic Hero

- | Suffers a significant character flaw
- | There are moral consequences as a result of the tragic hero's actions.
- | The tragic hero chooses his outcome; he is not a helpless victim of fate or circumstance.

Other Qualities of the Tragic Hero

- | He discovers his fate or outcome has been brought about his own actions.
- | His story should arouse fear and pity from the audience.
- | Ideally, he is a leader of men
- | He suffers more than what we think he might deserve.
- | The character is normally good and nearly perfect except for the tragic flaw.