

# Macbeth

## Fact Sheet

### The Shakespearean Tragedy

1. The drama gives the audience an emotional feeling of **catharsis** (cleansing of one's emotions).
2. The hero **protagonist** is a person of nobility (high rank) whose fate influences the destiny of his country or family.
3. The protagonist must make a **moral decision** that influences the outcome of the drama.
4. The hero is always an extraordinary man. When he is evil, however, he has compensating traits, such as **strength, courage or ambition**.
5. The hero/person of nobility has a **tragic flaw** (serious fault in character).
6. The serious fault in this hero/person of nobility leads to **downfall, destruction and death** (Act V - Catastrophe).
7. Although the tragic hero has pulled his flawed world down on his head, there is another character who will **restore order** to the chaotic ruin (chaos).
8. The elements of a Shakespearean tragedy are:
  - a. The Supernatural
  - b. Abnormal Psychological States
  - c. Use of Coincidence

Note: These elements lead to a Gothic atmosphere and a sense of fate toward tragedy.

9. The **inciting force** is when something happens to initiate the action of the play.
10. The **active force** makes the protagonist feel as if he/she has the upper hand.
11. During the **climax**, the hero reaches the **peak** of his power.
12. The **moment of final** suspense is significant as the hero believes that things seem to be going his way again and that he will be safe from harm.

### William Shakespeare

13. William Shakespeare (the Bard) was born April 23, 1564 and died on April 23, 1616.
14. He was born at Stratford– upon Avon.
15. His mother, Mary, and father, John were both illiterates.
16. William Shakespeare was a **voracious** reader.
17. When William was 18 years old he was forced to marry Anne Hathaway.
18. He had three children: Susanna, Hamnet, and Judith.
19. His son, Hamnet, died at the age of 11 in 1596.
20. He attended King's new school.
21. His plays contain many **geographical** errors.
22. 18 of his plays were published in 1623. He wrote a total of 37 plays.
23. The breakdown of his plays was: 10 tragedies, 10 comedies, & 17 histories.
24. He wrote a total of 154 sonnets.
25. He introduced **blank verse** (iambic pentameter) to drama.
26. During Queen Elizabeth's reign, Shakespeare's company from 1594-1603 was called Lord Chamberlain's men. After 1603 (King James the first), Shakespeare's company was called the King's men.

### Globe Theater

27. The Globe Theater was nicknamed the "**Wooden-O**."
28. The original Globe Theater burned down in 1613.
29. The Globe Theater had **little** scenery, was **open** to the sky, and had **three** sides for the audience.
30. All of the actors (**players**) were young boys and men.
31. Shakespeare's first production at the globe theater was Julius Caesar.
32. The Globe Theater accommodated more than 1500 people.
33. The "groundlings" sat in the **pit**.
34. A **white** flag signified that there would be a show that day.
35. On stage, a **trap door** leading to the "hell" area was where a winch elevator was located.