

**Stowupland High School 6<sup>th</sup> Form Preparation work for English Literature A level**

**Elements of Tragedy**



**Complete** a profile of your reading history. List the books (fiction/non-fiction) you have read over the last 5 years. Which were your favourite? Why? Set yourself a target of which book you would like to read next. Research a contemporary book (published in the last 3 years) that you would like to read. Why? What attracts you to this book?

**Time: 45 mins**



**Watch** the TEDx Talk: 'Why Shakespeare?'

A Level students read widely and consider the relevance of the authors they read. This is a gentle introduction to why Shakespeare is still relevant to a modern, contemporary audience and why we should listen to rather than watch/ read his plays

Write a summary of the key points made by Professor Stephen Brown.

<https://youtu.be/khVubNlgS0o>

**Time: 30 mins**



**Listen** to Melvyn Bragg's BBC Radio Four show on examining tragedy's role in today's society.

You will need to sign up (BBC iplayer log in works) but this is free.

Make notes on this 30min episode and turn them into a visual diagram of key ideas.

[Role of Tragedy](#)

**Time: 1 hour**



**Consider** the following statement and decide whether you would agree or disagree. Write a 500 word response, including examples of texts that can support your point of view.

*Conflict is key to drama in stories. Whether emotional conflict within an individual, or physical conflict with others, every story needs friction or disagreement.*

**1 hour**



**Complete** research on the history of **revenge tragedy in theatre**.

*This article is a simple starting point but try to find 3 other useful articles (avoid Wikipedia) to help you explore this topic. Use some of the terms or historical events here to build on your understanding.*

<https://thedramateacher.com/revenge-tragedy/>

**Time: 1 hour**



**Create** a profile of a tragic hero. You can use a character from your GCSE studies or you can use a character you have researched.

You might want to create a visual representation, such as a drawing that is labelled with subheadings and key information, or you might prefer a bullet point list of important character traits.

**Time: 1 hour**



**Read** the powerpoint entitled 'Shakespeare's Language intro' and explore the terminology underlined in red throughout.

**Time: 40 mins**



**Research** Shakespeare's language in more detail by exploring Shakespeareswords.com

Go to 'Topics' – look at and write explanations of:

Here, there, and where  
How and how  
Thou and you

Topics includes a glossary explaining the different forms of language Shakespeare uses. Why not look at other examples in the table too?

<https://www.shakespeareswords.com/Public/LanguageCompanion/Default.aspx>

**Time: 30 mins**



**Watch** Top 10 Best Shakespeare Movies compilation on youtube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnsDWBYCOU>

Why not make a list of the ones that look interesting to you – perhaps even watch a full play on film? The more you immerse yourself in the Shakespearean language, the more comfortable you'll feel reading it and listening to it.

**Time: 15 mins**