

Characteristics of a Shakespearean Tragedy**Examples from *Macbeth***

1. The tragedy is concerned with the tragic hero.	
2. The story is one of suffering and calamity that contrast with previous happiness and glory.	
3. The tragedy involves a person of high estate and affects the welfare of a whole nation.	
4. The hero undergoes a sudden reversal of fortune.	
5. The reversal excites the emotions of pity and fear within the audience.	
6. The fate of the hero is often triggered by a tragic flaw in the hero's character. The hero contributes to his death	
7. Shakespeare often introduces abnormal conditions of the mind as insanity, sleep-walking, or hallucinations.	
8. Supernatural elements are often introduced as well.	
9. Much of the plot seems to hinge on "chance" or "accident".	
10. There is an internal conflict and torment within the soul of the tragic hero.	
11. The tragic hero is someone the audience can sympathize with.	
12. The central impression of the tragedy is one of waste.	
13. The hero's actions lead to his/her own destruction.	
14. The ultimate power in the tragic world is the struggle between good and evil. Evil is eventually destroy and the moral order of the world is re-established.	