[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0CAcQjRw&url=http://ericgerlach.com/greekphilosophy2/&ei=7fuQVd_-H8PT7Qa3oo3YAg&psig=AFQjCNEXbto3yKW4aAqwSOKx3eesyPB2sA&ust=1435651342170709)Aspects of Tragedy –

LESSON 1

There can be no exhaustive list of the ‘aspects’ of tragedy but areas that can usefully be explored include:

• the type of the tragic text itself, whether it is classical and about public figures, like Lear, or domestic and about representations of ordinary people, like Tess.

• the settings for the tragedy, both places and times.

• the journey towards death of the protagonists, their flaws, pride and folly, their blindness and insight, their discovery and learning, their being a mix of good and evil.

• the role of the tragic villain or opponent, who directly affects the fortune of the hero, who engages in a contest of power and is partly responsible for the hero’s demise.

• the presence of fate, how the hero’s end is inevitable.

• how the behaviour of the hero affects the world around him, creating chaos and affecting the lives of others.

• the significance of violence and revenge, humour and moments of happiness.

• the structural pattern of the text as it moves through complication to catastrophe, from order to disorder, through climax to resolution, from the prosperity and happiness of the hero to the tragic end.

• the use of plots and sub-plots.

• the way that language is used to heighten the tragedy.

• ultimately how the tragedy affects the audience, acting as a commentary on the real world, moving the audience through pity and fear to an understanding of the human condition.