

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S TRAGEDIES

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Annotation: This article discusses the characteristic and artistic features of the genre of tragedy on the example of Shakespeare's work and "Hamlet" tragedy. Shakespearean tragedy is the story of suffering and calamity of the tragic hero. These suffering and calamities are exceptional and so affect the whole nation. In Shakespearean tragedy chance and fate plays important role. In Shakespearean tragedy supernatural elements like ghosts and witches also play important role.

Key words: dramaturgy, tragedy, image, situation, conflict, Shakespeare, Hamlet.

Introduction.

The main difference between tragedy and comedy in a Shakespearean play is that in a tragedy usually the story will start off with a serious situation such as a murder or a betrayal or a rivalry and will ultimately end sadly, with many, even everyone dying at the end of the story while a comedy will start off with an innocent misunderstand or weird situation and will ultimately end happily and with no one having died at the end of the story.

William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare (1564-1616) was an English playwright who wrote at least 38 plays during his career. His works can generally be divided into three categories: comedies, tragedies, and histories. There is some overlap between the genres of tragedy and history in Shakespeare's work, as many of his tragedies feature historical figures and many of his histories end in tragedy. Today, eleven of Shakespeare's plays are generally thought of as tragedies. [1]

Shakespearean tragedy

Shakespearean tragedy is the designation given to most tragedies written by playwright William Shakespeare. Many of his history plays share the qualifiers of a Shakespearean tragedy, but because they are based on real figures throughout the history of England, they were classified as "histories" in the First Folio. The Roman tragedies—Julius Caesar, Antony and Cleopatra and Coriolanus—are also based on historical figures, but because their sources were foreign and ancient, they are almost always classified as tragedies rather than histories. Shakespeare's romances (tragicomic plays) were written late in his career and published originally as either tragedy or comedy. They share some elements of tragedy, insofar as they feature a high-status central character, but they end happily like Shakespearean comedies. Almost three centuries after Shakespeare's death, the scholar F. S. Boas also coined a fifth category, the "problem play," for plays that do not fit neatly into a single classification because of their subject matter, setting, or ending. [2] Scholars continue to disagree on how to categorize some Shakespearean plays.

Shakespeare's tragedy plays are among his most famous and most interesting works. Below is a list of the eleven tragedies along with a brief plot summary and a note of which elements of tragedy are present in each one. Shakespeare's tragedies have been so widely read and so influential to English literature in the years since they were first performed that they have in many cases shaped the elements and tropes associated with tragic theatre. [3]

Examples of Shakespeare's tragedy

Hamlet remains to this day the most popular and the most produced of all of Shakespeare's plays. It is considered to be one of the most influential tragedies in English literature as well as the most powerful. The story is about a Danish prince who plots revenge on his uncle Claudius for the murder of his father the King of Denmark. [4]

One of the darkest and most powerful of Shakespeare's plays, Macbeth is the story of the a Scottish general by the same name who becomes consumed by ambition to become King of Scotland after receiving a prophecy from a trio of witches and who ultimately becomes consumed with guilt for the blood he wrongfully spills to take and then hold the throne for himself. [5]

CONCLUSION

William Shakespeare wrote eleven tragedies, some of which are more famous than others. Many people have read *Hamlet*, for instance, a play about a young man avenging the death of his father, but fewer have heard of *Coriolanus*, a tragedy about an exiled Roman general.

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