

DRAMATIC STRUCTURE OF A TRAGEDY

A Shakespearean tragedy traditionally follows the Freytag's Pyramid of Dramatic Structure which consists of five parts. Freytag's analysis is derived from Aristotle's Poetics that had a three-part view of a plot structure. The five parts are: Exposition, Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action and Denouement.

In the boxes, outline the particular moments or scenes in *Macbeth* that correspond with the five parts of the plot structure.

EXPOSITION

The exposition introduces important information to the audience that is vital to the unfolding action of the play. Exposition can also feature 'inciting' which 'clues' the audience into the world of the play. Central themes and ideas are also conveyed and the atmosphere for the play is established.



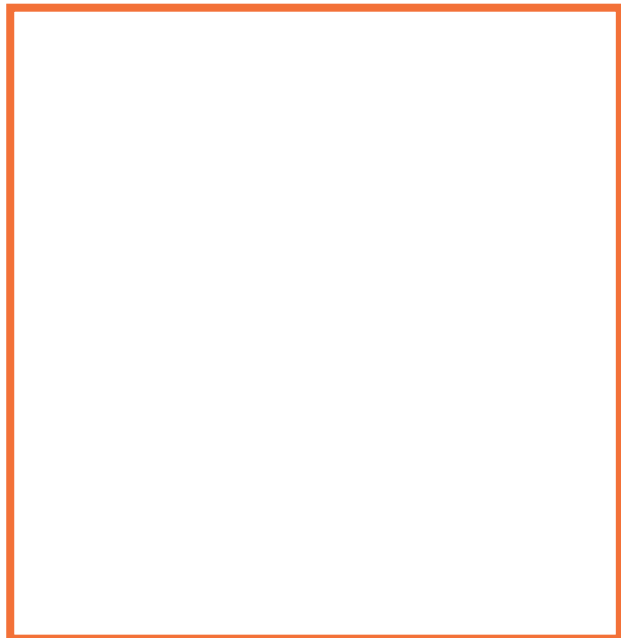
RISING ACTION

At the beginning of the rising action the conflict is introduced and an incident occurs that sets the rising action in motion. Throughout the rising action a series of events occur that lead to the climax. It is at this point in the play that the tragic hero suffers from their fatal flaw in character and makes errors of judgment.



CLIMAX

The climax is the turning point in the play that changes the protagonist's fate. This climax is the consequence of the events that occurred in the rising action. After the climax the tragic hero is more controlled by their actions than in control of their actions.



FALLING ACTION

During the falling action a conflict between the tragic hero and the avenging hero takes place which results in the tragic hero winning or losing. The falling action often contains a moment of suspense where it is perceived that the tragic hero may escape their fate.



DENOUEMENT

Normality is restored and the conflict is resolved.

