

A spiral-bound notebook with a light-colored, textured cover. The spiral binding is on the left side. The text is centered on the cover.

So... what is a
Tragic Hero
anyway?

Tragic Hero Background

“A man cannot become a hero until he can see the root of his own downfall.”

-Aristotle

The tragic hero is a **man of noble stature**. He is not an ordinary man, but a man with outstanding quality and greatness about him. His own destruction is for a greater cause or principle.

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Characteristics of a Tragic Hero

Born of Noble Birth



- Typically a king or member of the royal family
- Someone that normal people would “look up to” or admire – has outstanding qualities

Possesses a Fatal Flaw

- Also called the *Hamartia*
- Traditional fatal flaw is *hubris*, or excessive pride
- Flaw ultimately leads to hero's downfall, often death

oops!

Fate is controlled by Flaw

- First enjoys privileged life (remember noble birth!)
- Flaw causes a reversal of fortune called the *Peripeteia*
- Ultimate fate is a downfall, often death
- Downfall seems more impressive due to fall from noble position



The Wound

- Physically or spiritually wounded by experiences
- May be injured, or may suffer losses of family or fortune
- Wounds are not entirely deserved

Suffers more than he Deserves



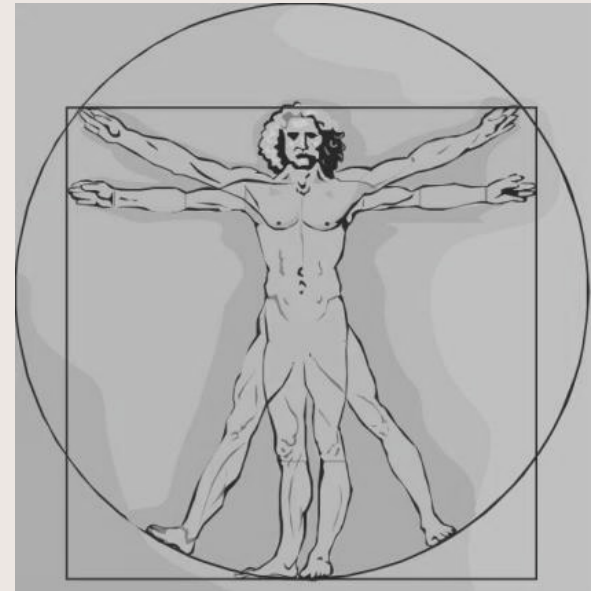
- Downfall or death is usually seen as a waste of human potential
- Suffering always has greater meaning, often related to the flaw

Bears No Responsibility

- Does not take responsibility for flaws, only for actions influenced by the flaw
- Actions result in an increase of self-awareness and self-knowledge
- Fate is discovered by his own actions, not things happening to him
 - Downfall is a result of free choice

Imperfect or “Human” Hero

- Has outstanding quality or greatness, but audience must identify with him
 - Are YOU perfect?
- Without imperfections, downfall would seem improbable or caused by fate only



Downfall arouses Pity or Fear

- Audience feels pity for hero because flaw is not his fault, so downfall seems undeserved
- Audience feels fear because they can identify with hero's thoughts and actions

“Wait...this could happen to me!”

