

## The ingredients of a Shakespearian tragedy

Shakespeare's tragedies include: *Macbeth*, *Othello*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet* and *King Lear*. Each of these plays follows a certain structure as shown below:

**1.) The hero is a person of significance – not just an ordinary person.**  
(e.g. Hamlet is a Prince, Othello is a general).

**2.) The hero brings about their own death and destruction.**

**3.) Other characters are caught in up in the tragedy – many people die.**

**4.) It is a 'fatal flaw' in the hero's character that causes the downfall.**

**5.) There is a higher force at work (but this is not religious - i.e. God).**

**6.) There is a sense of catharsis (cleansing) at the end. Order is restored.**

**For each point, give examples by referring to Othello.**