

Year 7: Shakespeare's Villains

Key Terms

Tragedy - a play dealing with tragic events and having an unhappy ending, especially one concerning the downfall of the main character.

Protagonist - the leading character or one of the major characters in the play.

Antagonist - a person who actively opposes or is hostile to someone or something.

Tragic Hero - a protagonist with a fatal flaw, who makes their own decisions, and makes the audience pity/fear them, usually leads to their downfall.

Blank Verse – Verse without rhyme, it does however have 10 syllables per line.

Soliloquy - an act of speaking one's thoughts aloud when by oneself or regardless of any hearers, especially by a character in a play.

Juxtaposition - two things being seen or placed close together with contrasting effect.

Iambic pentameter- a line of verse with five metrical feet, each consisting of one short (or unstressed) syllable followed by one long (or stressed) syllable, for example *Two households, both alike in dignity.*

Prose - written or spoken language in its ordinary form, without metrical structure.

Context

Society: There was a clear social hierarchy in Elizabethan times with the monarchy ruling over lower classes.

Women's Roles: Women were seen as second class citizens and often women's roles were played by men in Shakespearean plays.

Beliefs: Christianity was the main belief and people were supernatural, believing in witches, who they blamed for any natural disaster.

Theatre: Plays were performed in The Globe Theatre, a round wooden building.

Language: Shakespeare invented much of the words we use today – 1700 of them!

Key Villains

Tybalt	Ruthless and vengeful cousin of the Capulet family. Has a deep, violent hatred of the Montagues and a strong sense of honour and loyalty .
Lady Macbeth	The power-hungry, bloodthirsty wife of Macbeth. Stronger and more ruthless than her husband.
Caliban	Son of the witch Sycorax. Kept as a slave , he is insolent and rebellious and is only controlled through the use of magic .
Claudius	Kills Hamlet's father to become King of Denmark and marry the queen. Devises a plan to kill Hamlet, who is a threat.

Key Facts

Full name:

William Shakespeare

Also known as:

The Bard of Avon

Born:

Exact date unknown, but baptised 26 April 1564

Hometown:

Stratford-upon-Avon

Occupation: Playwright, actor and poet

Died: 23 April 1616

Parents:

John & Mary Shakespeare

Wife:

Anne Hathaway

Children:

Susanna, Hamnet & Judith

Works:

37 plays (at least), 154 sonnets, many poems.

