

1: Context-Greek Tragedy	2: Conventions of a tragic hero	3: Context– Jacobean England
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Greek tragedy is based around human nature and human suffering; a form of drama that arouses emotions of pity and fear in the audience. Sophocles (497BC-406BC)– . Introduced the use of a professional protagonist in plays. Focused on character experiences within his plays rather than the myth within a story. Aristotle-(384BC-322BC) An Ancient Greek Philosopher who devised a 'Theory of Tragedy' with 6 key elements: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Plot: the order of events Characters: the actors in the play Diction: the way language is spoken Thought: what characters think or feel during the play Song/Melody: usually performed by the chorus but can refer to rhymed speech Spectacle: staging, costumes, gestures, music– scenes used to create emotion Shakespeare (1564-1616)- One of the greatest English playwrights who wrote plays across the Elizabethan and Jacobean eras. He wrote many tragedies which were influenced by Aristotle's concepts of a tragedy. Shakespeare introduced romantic tragedy which mixed comedy and tragedy yet still included the violence of Greek tragedies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anagnorisis: The moment when the hero makes an important discovery. Aristotle considered anagnorisis, leading to peripeteia, the mark of a superior tragedy. <i>In Othello, anagnorisis occurs when...</i> Catharsis :The audience's feelings of pity and fear after the hero's fall. <i>The audience experience catharsis at the end of Othello as...</i> Hamartia :The hero's fatal flaw that leads to his tragic downfall. <i>Othello's hamartia may have been...</i> Hubris: A hero's extreme pride and disrespect for the natural order of the world. <i>Othello portrays/exhibits hubris when...</i> Nemesis: The unavoidable fate of the hero. <i>Othello's nemesis was...</i> Peripeteia: The hero's experience of a reversal of fate or fortune. <i>The peripeteia in Othello occurs when...</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shakespeare wrote his plays during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I and after her death, King James I. We call these time periods the Elizabethan(1558-1603) and Jacobean(1603-1625) eras. Othello was written in 1604. Othello is set against the backdrop of the wars between Venice and Turkey that raged in the latter part of the sixteenth century. Cyprus, which is the setting for most of the action, was a Venetian outpost attacked by the Turks in 1570 and conquered the following year. The 'Moors' were Muslim people who lived in Northern Africa. These people had mixed heritage. The term Moor was often used broadly, to refer to any person with dark or black skin, including black Africans. In Shakespearean times, Africans were seen as strange, exotic and enemies of Christianity who practiced witchcraft and voodoo. They were viewed with suspicion and hostility by the English; almost seen as an 'unknown'. Women were seen as unequal to men. Society was patriarchal (male-dominated) as male were superior compared to women. The Great Chain of Being is a hierarchical structure of all matter of life that Elizabethans believed God had set out. God and angels were at the top, humans, animals and plants followed below. Elizabethans believed there would be punishment by God for disrupting the chain or trying to move your position.
4: Othello– characters	5: Key vocabulary	6: Grammar-sentence types
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Othello: The protagonist and tragic hero. The general of the armies of Venice. He is married to Desdemona. Othello is an eloquent and physically powerful figure, respected by most of those around him. Desdemona: Othello's wife. The daughter of the Venetian senator Brabantio. Desdemona and Othello are secretly married before the play begins. Brabantio: Desdemona's father. A rich and important Venetian politician. Accuses Othello of 'stealing' his daughter at the start of the play. Iago: The antagonist. He works for Othello and wants to lead Othello to his downfall because Othello didn't promote him. He is a manipulative and destructive character. Michael Cassio: Othello's lieutenant. Cassio is a young and inexperienced soldier, whose high position is much resented by Iago. Iago uses Cassio's youth, good looks, and friendship with Desdemona to play on Othello's insecurities about Desdemona's fidelity. Emilia: Iago's wife and Desdemona's attendant. A cynical, worldly woman, she is deeply attached to her mistress and distrustful of her husband. Roderigo :A jealous suitor of Desdemona. Young, rich, and foolish, Roderigo is convinced that if he gives Iago all of his money, Iago will help him win Desdemona's hand. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soliloquy: an act of speaking one's thoughts and feelings aloud when by oneself or regardless of any hearers, especially by a character in a play. A character is speaking to themselves. <i>Iago uses a soliloquy at the end of scenes in Othello.</i> Monologue: a long speech by one actor in a play or film, delivered to the audience. <i>A monologue differs to a soliloquy because...</i> Antagonist: a person who opposes someone, usually the protagonist in a book or a play. <i>Iago is the antagonist in Othello</i> Dramatic irony: the audience are aware of something that other characters are not. <i>Shakespeare uses dramatic irony in Othello when Iago's hatred for Othello is hidden when speaking to him.</i> Duplicious: deceitful, pretending to have feelings that actions contradict. <i>Iago is a duplicitous character as he lies to various characters.</i> Machiavellian :cunning, scheming and devious. <i>Iago is a Machiavellian character.</i> Manipulation: to control or influence someone. <i>Iago employs various manipulation tactics across the play.</i> Patriarchal: male controlled and dominated. <i>A patriarchal society may involve women appearing inferior to men.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main clause: A clause with a subject, verb and an object. It forms one complete thought and can stand alone as a sentence. Subordinate clause: a clause, typically introduced by a conjunction, that is dependent on a main clause. It cannot stand alone as a sentence. Simple sentence: A sentence including one main clause. <i>Iago is the antagonist of the play.</i> Compound sentence: A sentence including two main clauses joined by a conjunction. It forms two complete thoughts. <i>Othello is the antagonist of the play and Desdemona is Othello's wife.</i> Complex sentence: A sentence including one main clause and one or more subordinate clauses. Commas are needed within a complex sentence if it begins with a subordinate clause and ends in a main clause. A comma is not needed if it begins with a main clause and ends with a subordinate clause. <i>Despite Iago presenting Othello as a savage beast at the start of the play, Othello appears honourable and brave.</i>

1: Grammar-word class	2: Key vocabulary	3: Othello as a tragic hero
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noun: an object, place or thing e.g <i>book, playscript, sword</i> Adjective: a word that describes a noun e.g <i>sharp sword</i> Verb: an action word e.g fighting, crying, lying Adverb: a word that describes a verb e.g viciously, harshly 1st person personal pronoun: pronouns associated with a person e.g I Conjunctions: Conjunctions show a link between one word, phrase or clause and another word, phrase or clause. They include and, but, when, if, because e.g 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tragic hero: a character of distinction who is destined for downfall, suffering or defeat. <i>Othello is a tragic hero.</i> Aside: a remark or passage in a play that is intended to be heard by the audience but unheard by the other characters in the play. <i>Iago uses an aside in Act 1.</i> Theme: an idea that recurs in a piece of literature. <i>Appearance vs Reality is a theme within Othello.</i> Symbolism: a word or object that represents something e.g <i>Within Othello, the handkerchief may symbolise love.</i> Downfall: a loss of power, prosperity, or status e.g <i>Othello's jealousy leads him to his tragic downfall.</i> Archetypal: very typical of a certain kind of person or thing e.g <i>Othello was an archetypal soldier at the start of the play.</i> Stereotypical: relating to a widely held but fixed and oversimplified image or idea of a particular type of person or thing. <i>Women were seen as stereotypically weak in the Jacobean era.</i> Defies: to go against. <i>In Act 1, Desdemona defies the stereotypes of a woman.</i> 	<p>Othello fulfills Aristotle's conventions of a tragic hero in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anagnorisis : In Act 5 Othello realises he should not have trusted Iago. Othello's knowledge (anagnorisis) comes too late for him to change the events that have happened.. Catharsis: In Act 5 Othello punishes himself for the crimes he has committed against Desdemona and others by killing himself. The audience experiences a sense of relief as he is punished for his actions and they have learnt a moral from his story. Hamartia: Othello is too trusting of Iago, and becomes consumed with jealousy around Desdemona. Hubris: Othello is arrogant and demonstrates a lack of humility in his treatment of others as the play progresses. Nemesis: Othello reaches the 'point of no return' when he believes Iago and publicly 'strikes' Desdemona. Peripeteia: Othello transforms from the "valiant" General to the jealous husband who murders his innocent wife.
4: Context– Jacobean England	5: Macbeth– character	6: Macbeth– plot
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Religion: Almost everyone in England in Shakespeare's day was Christian. Everyone would go to church on a Sunday, or even more often. Most people believed in Hell as a very real place, and that the Devil was a specific person. Supernatural: In Shakespeare's time people believed in witches. They were people who had made a pact with the Devil in exchange for supernatural powers. King James I was particularly superstitious about witches and even wrote a book on the subject. Shakespeare wrote Macbeth especially to appeal to James – it has witches and is set in Scotland, where he was already king. Gunpowder plot: The conspiracy of English Roman Catholics to blow up Parliament and King James I, his queen, and his eldest son on November 5, 1605. Regicide: The act of killing a king The Divine Right of Kings: People during the Jacobean and Elizabethan times believed in the Divine Right of Kings. This was the belief that God himself had chosen the monarch to lead the country and therefore they had ultimate power and should be obeyed completely. Disobeying the monarch would be a sin and you would be punished for this. Divine Retribution: Punishment of a person by God due to some wrongdoing Patriarchal society: Society was male dominated and male led therefore men held ultimate power over women. This was seen in social, legal, political, religious and economic aspects of society. Men were considered to be the leaders and women their inferiors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Macbeth: The tragic hero of the play. He is initially brave and heroic, however his hamartia of ambition and his hubris (excessive pride) lead to his downfall. Lady Macbeth: She is very ambitious and feels being a woman holds her back. She is manipulative and contributes to Macbeth's and her own downfall. The Witches: They represent the power of supernatural (widely believed in during the Jacobean era) and they manipulate Macbeth through their prophecies, especially the prophecy that says he will become king. Banquo: A close friend of Macbeth, however Macbeth has him murdered when the witches predict that Banquo's sons will be kings. Banquo does not succumb to the witches manipulation and is therefore shown as more honourable than Macbeth. This might have been to please King James I, who was said to have been a descendant of the real Banquo. King Duncan: The King of Scotland. Portrayed as a noble and trusting character. Malcolm: The eldest son of King Duncan and the named heir to the throne. He remains loyal to Scotland and fights to regain his crown with the support of England. Donalbain: The younger son of King Duncan. He flees to Ireland. Macduff: Thane of Fife and a loyal soldier. He takes vengeance for the murder of his family and kills Macbeth in the last act. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act One: The play opens with three witches. They cast prophecies on both Banquo and Macbeth saying that they will become King. Macbeth wrote a letter to his wife about the prophecies and being King. Lady Macbeth creates a plan to murder the King so they will become King and Queen. Macbeth does not want to kill Duncan to begin with, but Lady Macbeth manipulates him into doing so. Act Two: Macbeth begins to second guess himself about murdering Duncan but finally he goes through with the plan but panics after killing Duncan, so Lady Macbeth finishes the plan by wiping blood on the guards. The plan was to blame the murder on the guards so that Macbeth would not be a suspect in the murder. Malcolm and Donalbain flee Scotland in order to stay alive. Act Three: After Duncan's death, Banquo begins to think that Macbeth was the true murderer. In order to keep this a secret, Macbeth sends thugs out to murder Banquo and his son, Fleance but he escapes. Macbeth holds a banquet and sees the ghost Banquo. Macbeth begins to rant and rave, making the guest uneasy. Act Four: Macbeth becomes obsessed with power and begins to ask the witches for more prophecies. The witches tell Macbeth that he should be fearful of Macduff, that he cannot be killed by man, and that he should only fear when the Birnam wood begins to move to Dunsinane Hill. Soon after, Malcolm hatches a plan to kill Macbeth and become the rightful King of Scotland. Act Five: Lady Macbeth begins to go mad with guilt and dies. The battle begins and Macbeth confronts Macduff and learns that Macbeth was ripped from his mother's side and not naturally born. Macduff then kills Macbeth in a final battle where he beheads him. Malcom now becomes the rightful king of Scotland.