

1: Historical Context

Shakespeare tragedy: a play where the hero has a major character flaw which causes the story to end with their tragic downfall

peripeteia: The hero's experience of a reversal of fate or fortune

anagnorisis: The moment when the hero makes an important discovery

The Globe Theatre was built between 1597 and 1599. It was a large, round, open air theatre. The Globe had **three storeys** of seating and was able to hold up to **3,000 spectators**. At the base of the stage was an area called **the pit** which held the **groundlings** – people who paid just a penny to stand and watch a performance. There were no actresses performing at The Globe Theatre – or any other theatre at that time. **Female roles were played by young boys** as theatre stages were considered too risqué for ladies.

Ways to talk about context:

In the **Renaissance era**...

During the **Elizabethan period**...

In **Shakespeare's theatre**...

During the **16th Century**...

2: Terminology 1

pun: a humorous use of words that involves a word or phrase that has more than one possible meaning.

sonnet: a 14 line poem with strict metre and rhyme scheme

soliloquy: when a character speaks their thoughts aloud to themselves or to the audience

prologue: a speech delivered to the audience before the main action begins on stage

metre: the basic rhythmic structure of a verse or lines in verse

iambic pentameter: a metre consisting of five (pent) iambs (unstressed followed by stressed syllable, e.g. a-bove), e.g.

di-DUM di-DUM di-DUM di-DUM di-DUM

3: Terminology 2

extended metaphor: a metaphor which unfolds across multiple lines or sections of a text

conceit: an elaborate and fanciful metaphor or comparison between two things which do not naturally belong together

foreshadowing: any device which suggests that something unpleasant is going to happen

dramatic irony: the full significance of the character's words are clear to the audience, but not to the characters on stage

oxymoron: a phrase using two contrasting terms (e.g. 'feather of lead')

juxtaposition: two things being placed close together with contrasting effect

symbolism: the use of people or things to represent powerful ideas or qualities

4: How to write academically

patriarchy: a system of society or government in which men hold the power and women are largely excluded from it

Renaissance: a movement during the 14th-16th centuries which produced a lot of new art, literature, music and scientific thought across Europe

ACADEMIC VERBS

The author...

illustrates

evokes

indicates

highlights

ACADEMIC PHRASES

The reader is...

struck by

alarmed

invested in

encouraged to

5: Using Thesis Statements & Analysis

Thesis statement, authorial intent and influence, **language exploration:**

This **image/ line/ word/ creates the impression** that...

This is **representative of**...

This **conjures images of**...

This **could also suggest** that...

This is **particularly significant** because...

6: The Literary Present

In literary analysis, we ALWAYS talk about the text and the writer as if they are in the present tense, even if they were writing hundreds of years ago.

e.g. Shakespeare **is** implying that...

The Capulets **are** in conflict with the Montagues...

Academic verbs: words which describe that the writer is doing, or what something in text is doing, e.g. *suggests, illustrates, implies, describes*

Modal words help you to sound **tentative** when you talk about literature. It is important to be tentative because you