

What we already know

- Qualities typical of heroes
- How heroes are presented in non-fiction and fiction texts (newspaper, novels)

Stage 7 English: Shakespearean Heroes

What's next

- Studying Macbeth and The Tempest in Stage 8/9

English Golden Concepts

Reading: Fluency

Reading: Comprehension

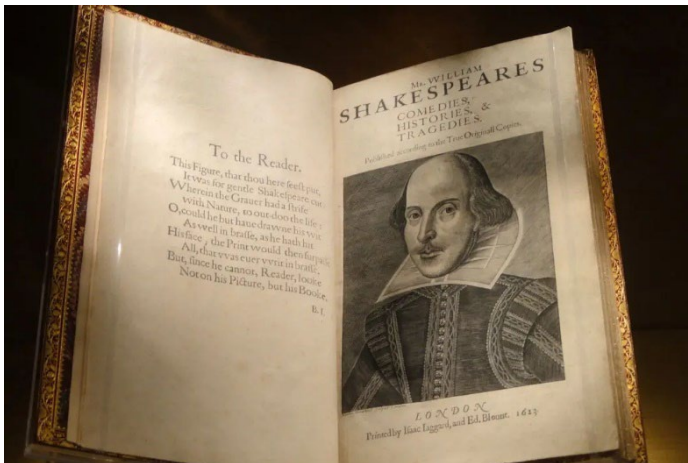
Speaking and Listening

Writing Transcription

Writing Composition

What are short stories?

A Shakespearean hero is a central character who faces great challenges, often showing bravery, ambition, or inner conflict. Some are noble but flawed tragic heroes, while others defy expectations, making them more complex.



Types of Shakespearean Heroes

Tragic Hero: A noble character with a fatal flaw (hamartia) that leads to their downfall. (e.g., Macbeth, Hamlet, Othello)

Romantic Hero: A hero motivated by love, often defying societal expectations. (e.g., Romeo, Orlando from As You Like It)

Epic Hero: A larger-than-life character who achieves greatness through bravery. (e.g., Henry V)

Anti-Hero: A protagonist who lacks conventional heroic qualities and may be morally ambiguous. (e.g., Richard III)

Examples of Shakespearean Heroes:

- Macbeth (Macbeth) - A noble warrior who is destroyed by ambition and fate.
- Hamlet (Hamlet) - A prince seeking revenge, torn by doubt and indecision.
- Othello (Othello) - A respected general brought down by jealousy and manipulation.
- Romeo (Romeo and Juliet) - A romantic hero who defies family expectations for love.
- Henry V (Henry V) - A leader who inspires his men to greatness in battle.
- Richard III (Richard III) - A cunning and ruthless anti-hero who manipulates his way to the throne.
- Portia (The Merchant of Venice) - A clever and resourceful female hero who disguises herself as a man to win a legal battle.

Context: Shakespeare's Time

Elizabethan & Jacobean Beliefs: Society valued order, the divine right of kings, and fate.

The Great Chain of Being: A belief that everything had a specific place in the universe.

Fate vs. Free Will: Many Shakespearean heroes struggle with destiny and choice.

Women in Society: Female heroes often had limited power but found ways to challenge authority (e.g., Portia in The Merchant of Venice).

Honour & Reputation: A key theme in many plays, shaping how heroes act.

Who was William Shakespeare?

- Born in 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon, England.
- Wrote 39 plays, 154 sonnets, and two narrative poems.
- His plays fall into three categories: Tragedies, Comedies, and Histories.
- Performed at The Globe Theatre in London.
- His works explore themes of power, fate, love, ambition, and identity.
- Died in 1616 but remains one of the most influential writers in history.

Key Terminology

Tragedy	A play that ends in disaster, usually due to the protagonist's flaws.
Hamartia	A fatal flaw leading to the downfall of a tragic hero.
Hubris	Excessive pride or arrogance.
Foil	A character who contrasts with the hero to highlight their traits.
Soliloquy	A speech in which a character speaks their thoughts aloud.