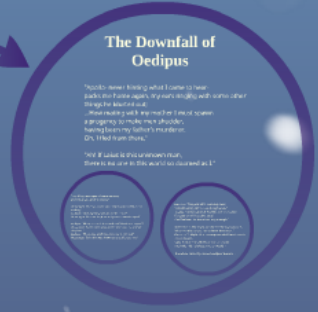
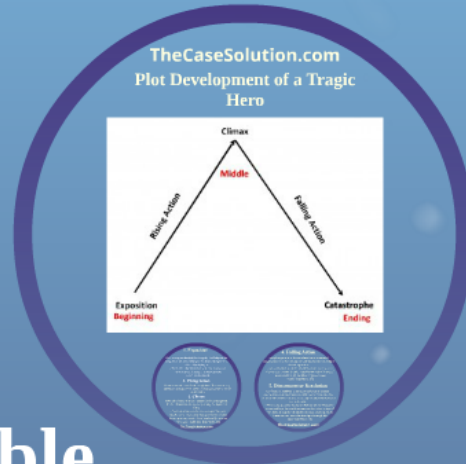


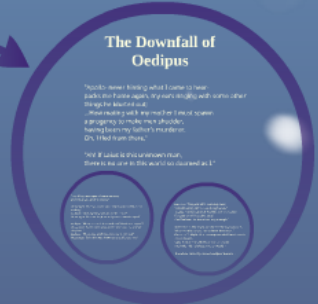
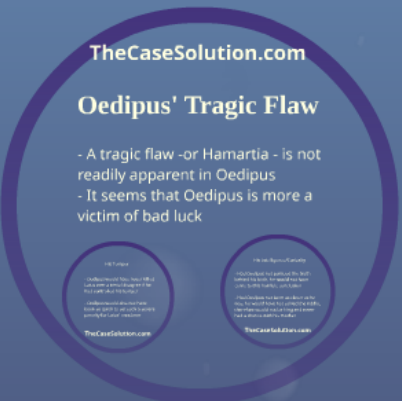
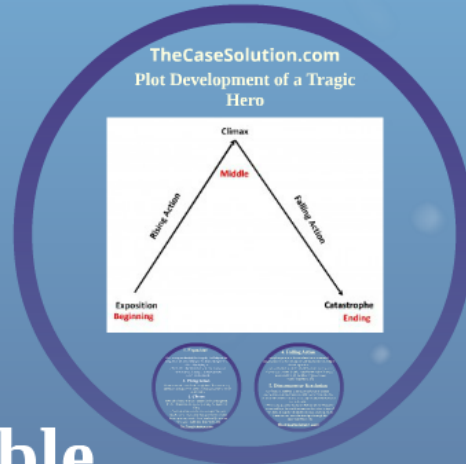
We Have a Terrible Tragedy Here (E)

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A Tragic Hero...

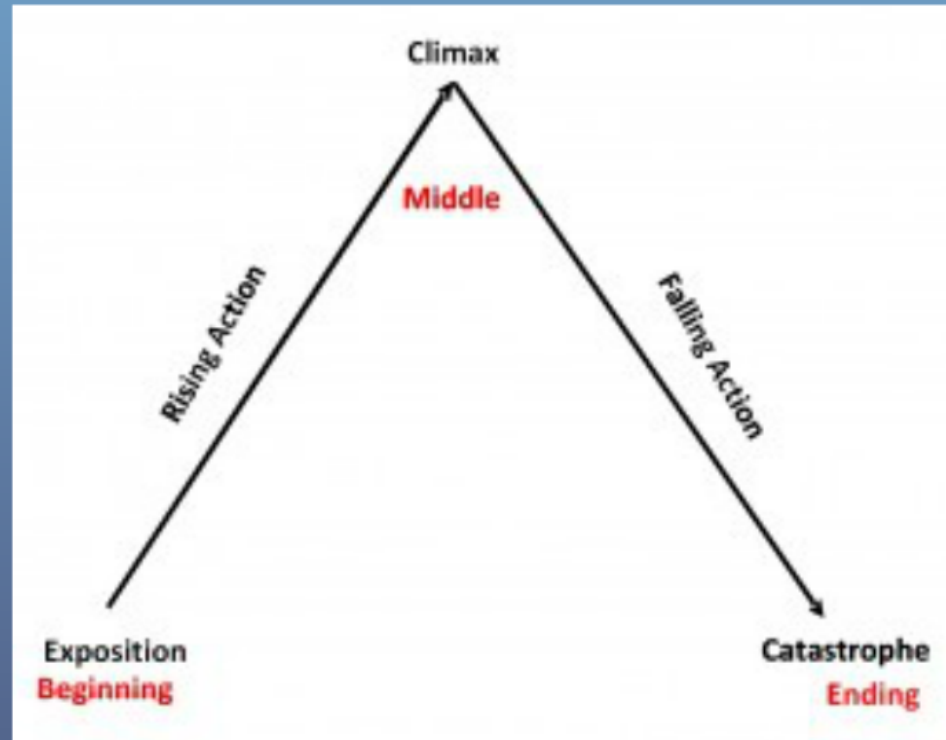
"The protagonist of a tragedy."

- Character of noble stature and occupies a "high" status position.
 - Tragic Flaw or Hamartia
- Downfall of the hero, usually caused by their own actions and poor judgment.
 - Victim of fate
 - Disturbed natural balance and order
- Hero's misfortune is not wholly deserved. The punishment exceeds the crime

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Plot Development of a Tragic Hero



1. Exposition

The inciting incident of the tragedy. In Oedipus the King, the Thebans coming to Oedipus asking him to rid the city of plague.

• "Mind the city. Make her safe. You had good omens once... be equal to your stature now" (Sophocles 6).

2. Rising Action

Provides complications for the tragic hero. Teiresias accusing Oedipus, the dispute with Creon, and Jocasta's explanation of Laius's death.

3. Climax

Reversal of fortune or peripeteia for the protagonist. The herdsmen/messenger explaining Oedipus as a baby.

• The herdsmen asks the messenger, "Do you recall a certain baby boy you gave to me once to bring up as my own?... He's [Oedipus's] standing here, your baby boy" (Sophocles 63).

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4. Falling Action

Everything starts to fit into place/make sense and anagnorisis is reached. Oedipus realizing his true identity is the falling action.

• "At last it's blazing clear... My birth all sprung revealed from those it never should, myself entwined with those I never could. And I the killer of those I never would" (Sophocles 67).

5. Dénouement or Resolution

Conflicts are resolved, a sense of catharsis is created, emotions are released. When Jocasta commits suicide, the children suffer with Oedipus, and Oedipus blinds himself and requests exile.

• When Oedipus sees his dead wife/mother, he "Tries the noose and lays the wretched woman down, then...rips off her dress the golden brooches she was wearing, holds them up and rams the pins right through his eyes" (Sophocles 70).

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terrible

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Oedipus' Tragic Flaw

- A tragic flaw -or Hamartia - is not readily apparent in Oedipus
- It seems that Oedipus is more a victim of bad luck

His Temper

- Oedipus would have never killed Laius over a trivial disagree if he had controlled his temper
- Oedipus would also not have been so quick to set such a severe penalty for Laius' murderer

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His Intelligence/Curiosity

- Had Oedipus not pursued the truth behind his birth, he would not have come to this horrible conclusion
- Had Oedipus not been as clever as he was, he would have not solved the riddle, therefore would not be king and never had a chance with his mother

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