

# SHAKESPEARE/HAMLET VOCABULARY



# Allusion



A figure of speech that makes a brief reference to a historical or literary figure, even, or object.

# Antagonist



The person (or force) with whom the hero battles

# Catastrophe



The tragic resolution – the final stage of the plot that usually involves the death of the hero – other characters may be affected as well.

# Comedy



Broadly defined as a dramatic work with a happy ending; many comedies contain humor, but humor is not required

# Comic relief



Often used to ease the intensity of the action – a lighter, mildly humorous scene

# Fate



A force or power that determines events - destiny

# Free Will



The ability to choose – the power to make choices that are unconstrained (as by fate)



# Irony



Referring to a reality that is different from appearance

# Narrative Poetry



Omit this word from your vocabulary – Shakespeare wrote two highly regarded narrative poems, but we have discussed narrative poems enough for one semester!!!

# Poetic Drama



Plays where most of the dialogue is in the form of poetry. Shakespeare wrote 37 plays – all in poetic drama

# Poetry



His famous sonnets (a lyric poem of 14 lines) –  
Shakespeare wrote 154 sonnets in all

# Renaissance



Rebirth – focus was shifted away from religion and the afterlife – the focus was replaced by a more modern view – stressing human life here on earth

# Soliloquy



A speech delivered while the speaker is alone – to inform the audience of what is passing in the character's mind

# Tragedy



A work in which the main character, or tragic hero, comes to an unhappy ending

# Tragic flaw



A flaw of the tragic hero – a fatal error in judgment or weakness of the character that leads directly to his/her downfall – usually recognized by the tragic hero by the end (or not until the end) of the play or at his/her death scene



# Tragic hero



The main character – comes to an unhappy or miserable end

# Turning point



A decisive moment in the play (book, movie, song, etc) where the action changes for the better or the worse



**THE END!!**