

## Remote Learning Packet

*Please submit scans of written work in Google Classroom at the end of the week.*

**May 4-8, 2020**

**Course:** Literature and Composition

**Teacher(s):** Mr. Binder

### **Weekly Plan:**

Monday, May 4

- Watch my short video on Google Classroom before beginning your work today.
- Read today's notes on tragedy and hamartia.
- Read through the passages from the play I've chosen.
- Identify Brutus' fatal flaw. Write it down.

Tuesday, May 5

- Write your opening paragraph. Be sure to make a claim in it.
- Write the body of your essay. This should be 1-3 paragraphs in length.
- Write your concluding paragraph.

Wednesday, May 6

- Finish the first draft of your essay. Edit it yourself and make it as good as you can.
- Have a parent, sibling, or classmate read your first draft, edit it and make suggestions on how to improve it.

Thursday, May 7

- Write your second draft of your essay. Keep in mind the feedback you got from the person who read and edited your first draft.
- Correct any spelling errors.
- Correct any grammatical errors.
- Correct any punctuation and capitalization errors.
- Correct any run-on sentences and fix any sentence fragments.

Friday, May 8

- Attend office hours (optional).
- Catch-up on or review the week's work.

### **Statement of Academic Honesty**

I affirm that the work completed from the packet is mine and that I completed it independently.

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Student Signature

I affirm that, to the best of my knowledge, my child completed this work independently

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Parent Signature

## Monday, May 4th

William Shakespeare wrote three types of plays, comedies, histories, and tragedies. The play we have been studying, *Julius Caesar*, is a tragedy.

What is a tragedy? Tragedy is a form of drama that deals in a serious manner with the mournful or miserable events experienced by and or brought about by a heroic individual. Tragedies always end in catastrophe and a Shakespearean tragedy, in particular, involves the death of the hero.

Another important term to know when considering a tragedy is the term, hamartia. What is hamartia? Hamartia is a fatal flaw leading to the downfall, suffering, and often death of a tragic hero. Hamartia comes from a Greek word which means to “miss the mark.” The idea is presented by the Greek word is that of an arrow missing the bullseye. It is a metaphor for an individual erring, sinning, or going off course in some tragic way. The tragic flaw in the hero can take a number of forms. It could be a literal flaw such as Achilles’s heel which is the only part of him that is vulnerable. The flaw can also be a vice in the hero such as pride, greed, ambition, or anger. Many times, though, a fatal flaw can even be a virtue. A hero’s honesty, sense of honor, mercy might also become the fatal flaw which leads to their ruin.

Here are some examples of hamartia in literature: In the Jewish and Christian scriptures we have the story of Samson. God gave Samson supernatural strength as long as he kept his hair long. Samson’s love for a woman named Delilah leads him to reveal to her the secret of his strength. She quickly betrays him to his enemies where he is blinded and enslaved. In the end he gets his revenge against his enemies but dies along with them. Samson’s fatal flaw was his love for Delilah.

We’ve already mentioned Achilles. The wrath of Achilles was as much a fatal flaw as his heel.

In *Julius Caesar*, we might say that Caesar’s ambition, pride, or perhaps fear (of being thought afraid) lead to his death. Caesar, however, is not the tragic hero of the play. The tragic hero is Brutus.

Your task today is to think carefully and decide what you think was the “fatal flaw” of Brutus. What led to his downfall and death? You are free to consider any portion of the play as you think about this question but I have provided several passages for you to reread and think about.

Passages to consider: Act 1, Scene 2, lines 30-187, 320-324/ Act 2, Sc.1, lines 10-36, 48-61/ Act 3, Sc. 1, lines 180-188/ Act 3, Sc.2, lines 14-49/ Act 4, Sc.3, lines 19-29, 74-91/ Act 5, Sc.1, lines 121-125.

When you are done thinking, write down your answer. “I think Brutus’ fatal flaw is.....”

## **Tuesday, May 5th**

Hopefully, yesterday you formed a good understanding of tragedy and hamartia and came to a conclusion about what Brutus' fatal flaw was which led to his tragic end.. Now is your chance to explain why you think that.

Today you will begin writing a 3-5 paragraph essay responding to his arguments. Below is your essay prompt.

### **Essay Prompt: What was Brutus' fatal flaw? Why did it lead to his downfall and death?**

In your opening paragraph consider briefly explain what hamartia is and then make your claim about what you think Brutus' fatal flaw was.

In the body of your essay (1-3 paragraphs) make your arguments why you think this was his fatal flaw. Provide details and examples from the text as evidence to support your arguments.

Finally, in your concluding paragraph come back to the original question. Briefly summarize your thoughts and restate your conclusion in a fresh way.

## **Wednesday, May 6th**

Yesterday, you began writing your essay. Today you should finish writing your first draft if you haven't already. When you finish writing it, think of one or two people you think could give you some helpful suggestions about how to improve your essay and how to correct it. Ask them to tell you if there are any parts of your essay that are unclear. Ask them if they found any of your arguments weak and unpersuasive and why, Ask them to mark any errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation or sentence structure (i.e. run on sentences or sentence fragments). Also ask them what they liked about your essay!

## **Thursday, May 7th**

Ok, it's the last day for homework this week and the last chance to work on your essay. Today is the day to polish it and make it shine. Hopefully you got some helpful suggestions from your chosen editor(s) yesterday. Now is the time to really consider what to change or fix based on what they've said.

Remember, though, you are the writer and you have the final say in what stays, what goes, what changes and what doesn't. Here are your objectives for today's writing. Make your essay as clear to the reader as you can. Make your arguments as strong, reasonable, and persuasive as you can. Clean up any mistakes such as spelling, grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and sentence structure. If you haven't typed your essay, make sure your handwriting is as nice and legible as you can make it. Whether you've typed or handwritten your essay make sure that it is clean, unwrinkled, has no doodles etc. Make it look respectable! Your name, date, class, grade and section should appear in the upper left hand corner of your essay.

## **Friday, May 8th**

No homework. Please attend my Zoom Office Hours today at noon if you have any questions etc. regarding this week's assignments.

