

AP® Literature/ENG 102

Final Exam

A tragic hero is a literary character who makes a judgment error that inevitably leads to his/her own destruction. Aristotle once said that "A man doesn't become a hero until he can see the root of his own downfall." An Aristotelian tragic hero must possess specific characteristics, five of which are below:

1. Flaw or error of judgment (hamartia) **Note the role of justice and/or revenge in the judgments.**
2. A reversal of fortune (peripeteia) brought about because of the hero's error in judgment.
3. The discovery or recognition that the reversal was brought about by the hero's own actions (anagnorisis)
4. Excessive Pride (hubris)
5. The character's fate must be greater than deserved.

Based upon Aristotle's definition of the tragic hero, choose one character that we read and studied in this course and compose an essay that explains the reason you think he/she is a tragic hero in line with Aristotle's view. Please avoid using Creon from Sophocles' *Antigone*.