**Julius Caesar – The Tragedy**

**Definition:** A Tragedy is an important and causally related series of events in the life of a person of significance; such events culminating in an unhappy catastrophe; the whole treated with great dignity and seriousness.

**Requirements of a Tragedy:**

1. It would involve a man on high estate
2. The play should present a reversal of fortune
3. The hero should be of ordinary moral stature, a victim of a tragic flaw, who has great conflicts, ethical and emotional
4. There should be conflict of wills in opposing or related characters, both strong, and the conflict so great that loss of the conflict leads to death
5. There should be a character whose principles are so important, the flaws so great in him, or the obstinacies so hardened that he cannot stop what he is doing, even though he sees his death coming as a result.
6. There should remain at the end a feeling of waste, a loss of someone or something good
7. The character, because of his action, should find himself in a new climate, a new set of situations in which he becomes a misfit and is unable to cope with the circumstances
8. There should be a wide discrepancy between appearance and reality, with what appears to be the truth and what is the truth, between awareness of what is going on and unawareness

**Characteristics of the Tragic Hero:**

1. He is a good person, who, through some weakness of character or error of judgments, unknowingly brings doom on himself (he has a tragic flaw which is often a virtue carried to excess)
2. At some point during the action, the tragic hero must discover the truth of his wrong choice or the catastrophe he has unwittingly brought about
3. This choice was intended (by him) to produce results opposite to what actually happens
4. This reversal of fortune and recognition of the truth must bring about a change in him—most characteristically an understanding of his limitations as a man
5. The hero must be more admirable in defeat than he was before. He must gain in stature the way he meets catastrophe

