Shakespeare’s Works

Shakespeare wrote 3 kinds of plays:

1. **Histories** eg. *King Henry IV-VII, King John, Julius Caesar*

– based on the past, rooted in fact.

1. **Tragedies** eg. *Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet, Macbeth, Julius Caesar*

What is a tragedy?

In a Shakespearean Tragedy:

- Protagonist(s) are admirable but flawed – audience can relate.

- Protagonist(s) are capable of good and evil

-Opportunities to back out…but characters continue moving towards doom.

-Sometimes, no fault of the characters, but due to barriers put up around them.

- In the end, one or more of the main characters die….tragically.

1. **Comedies** eg. *Twelfth Night, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Much Ado about Nothing*

What is a comedy?

In a Shakespearean Comedy:

-happy ending

- lighter tone and style

-often includes a wedding

-often internal/external conflict such as:

a)A struggle of young lovers to overcome difficulty, often presented by elders

eg. Meet the Parents, the Waterboy

b)Separation and Re-unification

eg. The Hangover, Wedding Crashers, Home Alone, Step Brothers

c) Mistaken Identities

eg. The Hangover, The Pacifier, Wedding Crashers

d) A Clever Servant

eg. Fresh Prince of Belair, Mr. Deeds

e) Heightened Tensions (often within a family)

eg. Guess Who?, Click, Tommy Boy, Step Brothers

f) Multiple Intertwining Plots

eg. The Hangover, Friends, How I met your Mother

g) Frequent puns

eg. Play on words – Family guy