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