

Subject	English
Unit/Topic	Year 10 - Shakespeare

Key Vocabulary	Definition
Tragedy	A play dealing with tragic events and having an unhappy ending, especially one concerning the downfall of the main character.
Monologue	A long speech by one actor in a play or film.
Soliloquy	Speaking thoughts aloud when alone or regardless of any hearers, especially by a character in a play.
Blank verse	Verse without rhyme, especially that which uses five pairs of syllables per line and a set rhythm (known as iambic pentameter).
Protagonist	The leading character or one of the major characters.
Antagonist	A person who actively opposes or is hostile to someone or something; an adversary.
Eponymous	Giving their name to something, such as the title of a text.
Shakespearean	Relating to William Shakespeare or his works.
Aside	A remark or passage in a play that is intended to be heard by the audience but unheard by the other characters in the play.
Comic relief	humorous content that is intended to offset more serious episodes
Pun	A joke which uses the different possible meanings of a word or the fact that there are words which sound alike but have different meanings.
Motif	A dominant or recurring idea.
Symbolism	The use of symbols to represent ideas.
Couplet	Two lines of verse which appear together, typically rhyming and of the same length.
Mythology	Stories about a specific person, culture, religion, or any group with shared beliefs.

Macbeth	
Hamartia	A fatal flaw leading to the downfall of a tragic hero or heroine.
Manipulative	Exercising control or influence over a person or situation.
Jacobean	Relating to the reign of James I of England.
Regicide	The action of killing a king.
Chain Of Being	A hierarchical structure of all life, thought by medieval Christianity to have been decreed by God.
Divine Right of Kings	The doctrine that kings derive their authority from God not their subjects, from which it follows that rebellion is the worst of political crimes.
Valour	Great courage in the face of danger, especially in battle.
Supernatural	Belonging to some force beyond scientific understanding or the laws of nature.
Foil Character	Someone who contrasts with another character – usually the main character – to highlight their qualities.
Apparitions	Ghostlike images of a people.
Rightful Heir	A person who will legally receive a title from another person.
Romeo and Juliet	
Elizabethan	Relating to the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.
Feud	A prolonged and bitter quarrel or dispute.
Oxymoron	A figure of speech in which apparently contradictory terms appear in the same phrase.
Sonnet	A poem of fourteen lines using any of a number of formal rhyme schemes, in English typically having ten syllables per line.
Denouement	The final part where all is resolved.
Honour	High respect; great esteem.
Parable	A simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson.

Courtly love	A romantic relationship between two unmarried people in medieval times. These love relationships were not physical, but based on flirting, dancing, and the chivalrous efforts of knights and other noble young men to curry favor from ladies at court.
Fate	The development of events outside a person's control, regarded as predetermined by a supernatural power.
Misogyny	Dislike of, contempt for, or ingrained prejudice against women.
Virtue	Behaviour showing high moral standards.
Catholic	Conforming to the sect of Christianity begun in the Roman era.
Protestant	A member or follower of any of the Western Christian Churches that are separate from the Roman Catholic Church.
Foreshadowing	Indicating a future event.