What is a tragic hero?

A **tragic hero** is someone of high position who has a “fall from grace.” His or her ‘fall from grace’ is caused by their fatal flaw, usually **hubris** (overbearing pride that causes harm to others).

What is irony?

**Irony** is knowledge of something going on that a character is not aware. The types of irony are:

- **Situational**: The result of something is the opposite of the desired effect.
  - Being poisoned by your own pie
- **Dramatic**: The audience is aware of something that the characters are not.
  - Character says goodbye to other character; audience knows character is about to die.
- **Verbal**: The speaker says something but means something else.
  - “Aww! Your baby is so… precocious.” The speaker really means to say the baby is ugly. (Precocious means to have developed certain abilities at an earlier age than usual.)
- **Cosmic**: The struggle between human desire and the realities of the world.
  - As a child, you wanted a certain toy and asked your parents for it. Being impatient, you break your piggy bank and buy the toy. However, you come home with the toy and your parents present you with the same toy that you bought.

**Major Character List**

- Macbeth- Thane of Glamis and Cowdor, brave man but is ambitious, tragic hero
- Lady Macbeth- wife of Macbeth
- The Three Witches- gives Macbeth views of the future
- Banquo- close friend of Macbeth
- King Duncan- King of Scotland
- Macduff- Scottish Nobleman
- Malcolm- Son of Duncan
- Fleance- Banquo’s Son
- Lennox- Scottish Nobleman
- Ross- Scottish Nobleman
- Donalbain- Duncan’s son
Theme: Universal ideas explored in a literary work.
- Corruption & Ambition
- Cruelty vs. Masculinity
- Kingship and Tyranny

Motif: Recurring things that build the theme
- Hallucinations
- Violence
- Prophecy

Symbol: Objects used to represent abstract themes and concepts
- Blood
- The Weather

Conflict: Struggle of opposing forces that moves the plot of a literary work.
- Man vs. Man
- Man vs. Self
- Man vs. Society
- Man vs. Nature/God

Other Items
- The role of women and how it changed in the play. (Angel of the House)
- Macbeth and Lady Macbeth’s descent into madness.
- Plot Structure
- Mysticism- the Three Witches

Fun Fact:
According to theater lore, you are not to say Macbeth in a theater unless you are performing it. Allegedly, Shakespeare revealed an actual ritual in *Macbeth* and its followers did not agree with him revealing their secrets. As a consequence, they cursed the play for all eternity. Saying the name causes bad luck to happen to the performance and sometimes the performers themselves. For example, in a 1937 performance, Sir Lawrence Olivier- who played Macbeth- almost died when a 25 pound stage weight crashed an inch away from him and his sword broke onstage and flew into an audience member causing the person to have a heart attack. Also, during its original performance in 1606, the boy chosen to play Lady Macbeth died forcing Shakespeare to play the part and King James I was so displeased with the play that he banned it for five years (Tritsch).

We are reading it. I think we are safe.