Top 10 Signs You’re Reading a Shakespearean Tragedy

10. There is a tragic hero who has a tragic flaw.

9. The external conflict is between two groups, one of which the hero belongs to.

8. The internal conflict within the tragic hero is of the human spirit (good vs evil, passion vs principle).

7. The misfortunes of the tragedy are caused by the actions of the people.

6. Chance/fortune/fate plays a hand in the action of the tragedy.

5. There is a sense of urgency within the plot that drives the tragic hero to act.

4. The tragic hero is responsible for the ultimate catastrophe.

3. Before the downfall, the tragic hero displays courage or nobility, which makes the reader recognise his/her potential for greatness.

2. The tragic hero’s fate affects the well being of the whole nation or empire of the story.

**1. The tragic hero dies in the end.**