

Plot Structure of a Tragedy

Climax or Turning Point:
The highest point of action in the play. Change in the protagonist, who now seems to follow a downward path.
In Romeo and Juliet:

Rising Action:
Series of events leading up to the climax.
In Romeo and Juliet:

Falling Action:
Series of events following the climax; most events go against the protagonist.
In Romeo and Juliet:

Exciting (or Inciting) Force:
Something happens that gets the action moving, usually in the first act.
In Romeo and Juliet:

Moment of Final Suspense:
Near the end of the play, it begins to look as if things will go in favor of the protagonist.
In Romeo and Juliet:

Exposition:
The introductory section of the play in which time, place, characters and the situation are presented.
In Romeo and Juliet:

Catastrophe:
The complete downfall of the protagonist, either through death or some other devastating experience.
In Romeo and Juliet: