

9<sup>th</sup> Honors English: Introduction to Tragedy  
Romeo and Juliet  
by  
William Shakespeare

A Shakespearian tragedy may be broken down into six distinct structural elements:

1. Exposition –
2. Exciting Force –
3. Rising Action –
4. Climax –
5. Falling action –
6. Catastrophe –

In Romeo and Juliet these elements occur as follows:

Act I	Exposition, Exciting Force, Rising Action
Act II	Rising Action
Act III	Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action
Act IV	Falling Action
Act V	Falling Action, Catastrophe



