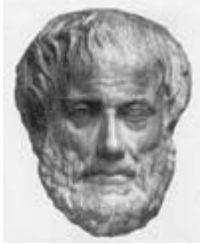


## Aristotle



Aristotle was born in Stagirus, Macedonia, Greece in 384 BC and died 62 years later in 322 BC. He was a student at Plato's Academy and later became one of the greatest philosophers of Ancient Greece. In one of his treatises, *The Poetics*, he outlines the Six Elements Of Drama, based on the the Ancient Greek belief that tragedy was the highest form of Drama. This outline has become a guideline for many playwrights throughout history, and is especially emphasized in the works of William Shakespeare.

### Aristotle's Definition of Tragedy

“A tragedy is the imitation of an action that is serious and also, as having magnitude, complete in itself; in appropriate and pleasurable language;... in a dramatic rather than narrative form; with incidents arousing pity and fear, wherewith to accomplish a catharsis of these emotions.”

### Aristotles Six Elements of Drama

1. PLOT – what happens in a play; the order of events, the story as opposed to the theme; what happens rather than what it means.
2. THEME – what the play means as opposed to what happens (plot); the main idea within the play.
3. CHARACTER – the personality or the part an actor represents in a play; a role played by an actor in a play.
4. DICTION/LANGUAGE/DIALOGUE – the word choices made by the playwright and the enunciation of the actors delivering the lines.
5. MUSIC/RHYTHM – by music Aristotle meant the sound, rhythm and melody of the speeches.
6. SPECTACLE – the visual elements of the production of a play; the scenery, costumes, and special effects in a production.

## Freytag



Gustav Freytag was a German writer and critic born in Kreuzburg, Silesia, in July of 1816, and died in 1895. In his book *Technique of the Drama* (1863), he proposed a method of analyzing plots derived from Aristotle's concept of unity of action that came to be known as Freytag's Triangle or Freytag's Pyramid.

### Freytag's Triangle

