

Contents

Introduction	5
1 Tragedy	7
What is tragedy?	7
What is Shakespearean tragedy?	8
What is Jacobean tragedy?	10
The origins of tragedy	13
Aristotle on tragedy	13
<i>Assignments</i>	14
2 Contexts	15
'Nothing will come of nothing'	15
▶ Dramatic and literary contexts	16
The condition of England	23
<i>Assignments</i>	38
3 Approaching the texts	40
Shakespearean tragedy	40
Jacobean tragedy	59
Tragicomedy	69
<i>Assignments</i>	70
4 Extracts from the tragedies	72
Christopher Marlowe	
<i>from Doctor Faustus</i>	72
William Shakespeare	
<i>from Titus Andronicus</i>	74
<i>from Richard III</i>	75
<i>from Richard II</i>	77
<i>from Romeo and Juliet</i>	78
<i>from Hamlet</i>	80

from <i>Othello</i>	81
from <i>King Lear</i>	83
from <i>Macbeth</i>	85
from <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i>	87
from <i>Timon of Athens</i>	89
John Webster	
from <i>The White Devil</i>	90
from <i>The Duchess of Malfi</i>	92
Thomas Middleton	
from <i>The Revenger's Tragedy</i>	94
from <i>The Changeling</i>	96
5 Critical approaches	98
Traditional critical approaches	98
Modern critical approaches	103
<i>Assignments</i>	113
6 How to write about Shakespearean and Jacobean tragedy	115
The concept of tragedy	115
Public and personal: focus on society and individual	117
Other focuses for your writing: language, themes, contexts, stagecraft	119
What account should you take of critics?	120
<i>Assignments</i>	121
7 Resources	122
Chronology	122
Further reading	123
Glossary	126
Index	128