

## Task 2 – Reading: recipe for a Shakespearean tragedy

Read the article and answer the questions.

- a. Is it written in the style of ...
  - a covering letter?
  - a poem?
  - a recipe?
- b. Underline the parts of the text which helped you to choose your answer.
- c. Who is this article written for?

### How to make a Shakespearean tragedy

Do you feel that the word 'tragedy' has lost its flavour in the modern world? Don't worry –making a traditional Elizabethan tragedy is not as hard as you might think. Why not impress your friends with this easy dish?

- 1) Begin by choosing your tragic hero. Please select carefully: for an Elizabethan\* tragedy you need a hero of **noble birth**. Common people may be easy to find, but they are not the stuff of real Elizabethan tragedy. For best results, choose a hero with a strong and attractive character.
- 2) Add a **fatal character flaw**. **Hubris** is a popular choice with many chefs, but feel free to experiment. Stir the flaw in well: you must make sure it will result in your tragic hero's downfall.
- 3) Next, make sure that your hero has a **reversal of fortune** by adding a large catastrophic event.
- 4) Sprinkle in plenty of suffering and **anguish**. Beat your hero with it until he can take no more.
- 5) When your hero is just about ready to die, mix in a moment of **self-awareness**. Your hero should suddenly recognise his tragic flaw. Time this moment of self-awareness carefully: it should come just a few moments too late.
- 6) Kill your tragic hero. Make sure that you have a nice, sweet dessert for your guests to enjoy so that they feel there is hope for the future.

**Note:** The word 'Elizabethan' refers to the years Queen Elizabeth I was on the throne (1558–1603).