

WEEK 3 / 3-5

What's the difference between a comedy and a tragedy?

The symbols of comedy and tragedy have been linked back to ancient Greek Theatre. Melpomene is charged with dominion over tragedy. Unlike the common use of the term today, her realm of tragedy refers to the literary and theatrical genre of drama, rhetoric, and serious subjects. Thalia "the joyous, the flourishing" was the Muse who presided over comedy and idyllic poetry. In this context her name means "flourishing", because the praises in her songs flourish through time.

A tragedy is usually about a person who has many good qualities, but has one poor quality (called a "tragic flaw") that causes trouble for him, and may cause him, or his family or friends, to be in trouble. Comedies were more light-hearted than tragedies. They told stories of everyday life and often made fun of Greek celebrities and politicians.

Distinguish between the following shows/movies if they're a comedy or tragedy:

- Romeo & Juliet _____
- Harry Potter _____
- The Little Mermaid _____
- The Comedy of Errors _____
- Toy Story _____
- Coco _____
- Charlotte's Web _____

REFLECTION:

What are some other comedies you can think of?

What are some other tragedies you can think of?

What was the most interesting thing you learned from this worksheet?