English – Kirk **Aristotle’s Rules of Tragic Plot**

**Model Text:** Oedipus Rex by Sophocles

**Oedipus**

1. Tragic hero

* Single main character
* Elevated position – born into
* FALLS – higher up = harder fall
* FALL INVOLVES OTHERS

**Hubris:**

* **Angry**
* **Egotistical**
* **Paranoid**

1. Tragic flaw
   * Weakness in character
   * Unaware of weakness
   * Catches them by surprise

**Kills Laius**

1. Tragic fall/mistake
   * Fatal
   * Act of pride/excess
   * Important wrong decision that leads to hero’s demise. No going back.

**Fate**

1. The jealousy of the gods
   * Hero is struggling with a superior force i.e. gods/divine social traditions/FATE
2. CATHARSIS = we fear for the character; we respect force

**Herdsman Scene - Shepherd**

1. Recognition scene
   * Understanding 5W’s of situation
   * Too late
2. CATHARSIS = we feel pity 🡪 humanity
3. Nemesis

**Stabs out eyes**

* + Total ruin/humiliation