**Anagnorisis**

Aristotle's term describing the point in the plot (climax), especially of a tragedy, when a character experiences understanding; the point in the play when the protagonist recognizes or verbalizes his or her tragic error or some other character's true identity or discovers the true nature of his or her own situation

**Catharsis**

Purification or purgation of the emotions (as pity and fear) primarily through art; Aristotle's concept that tragedy, by arousing pity and fear (eleos and phobos), regularizes and shapes the emotions, and that therefore tragedy is essential in a civilized society

**Catastrophe**

The final event of the dramatic action especially of a tragedy, the problem often spirals outwards and causes suffering to the hero and people he/she loves or wants to protect

**Chorus**

Common voice of people; a company of actors in Athenian drama participating in or commenting on the action; in ancient drama the chorus was composed of 12-15 men who chanted in unison and performed dance movements to a flute accompaniment

**Denouement**

The final outcome of the main dramatic complication in a literary work: The suspense ends and the tension unwinds, providing closure

**Exodus**

Last scene

**Hamartia**

Tragic flaw

**Hubris**

Exaggerated pride or self-confidence

**Peripeteia**

a sudden or unexpected reversal of circumstances or situation especially in a literary work; in a classic tragedy, the reversal is the moment when the protagonist's fortunes change irrecoverably for the worse.