Plot Structure of a Tragedy

Climax or Turning Point: the highest point of action in the play. Change in the protagonist, who seems now to be following a downward path.

Rising Action: series of events leading up to the climax; usually covers more than one act.

Falling Action: series of events following the climax; the conflict is the essense of the play; most events go against the protagonist.

Exciting (or Inciting) Force:
Something happens that gets the action moving, usually in the first act.

Moment of Final Suspense: Near the end of the play, it begins to look as if things will go the way of the protagonist after all.

Exposition: the introductory section of a play in which time, place, characters, and situation are presented.

Catastrophe: the complete downfall of the protagonist, either through death or some other devastating experience.