Hubris

"Zeus hates with a vengeance all bravado

The mighty boasts of men,"

- Sophocles, Antigone

Hubris is the idea that the universe punishes people who think that they are all-powerful. In return for their arrogance they usually suffer in a terrible way. Sometimes this is expressed more generally as “pride comes before a fall”. For example:

![Image of Parental Hubris Principle #11]

Here we have the classic hubristic pattern: a boast which is followed by an ironic punishment. It is ironic just because the words lose contact with the reality. It is a punishment because it is embarrassing, inconvenient or uncomfortable.

**TASK ONE**

In your own words explain how each of the following display Hubris.

**EXTENSION: What Ironic Punishments might the Gods deliver?**

- A football manager calling himself “The Special One”.
- A teacher who boasts that “my class always get A*s”.
- Tony Blair, the former Prime Minister saying “I feel the hand of history on my shoulders.
- Someone who always goes on about how popular they are with the opposite sex.

**TASK TWO**

Reread Julius Caesar 3:1. In your own words, can you say why the murder of Caesar shows that he displays **hubris**?