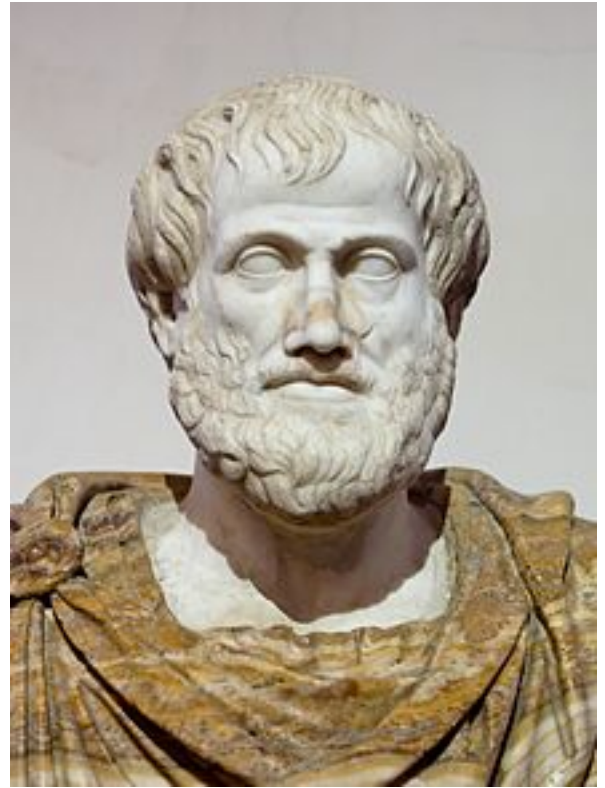


ARISTOTLE'S POETICS

Aristotle's *Poetics* is the earliest surviving work of dramatic theory and the first philosophical treatise to focus on literary theory. In it, Aristotle offers an account of what he calls "poetry" a term which in Greek literally means "making" and in this context includes drama comedy, tragedy, and the satyr play as well as lyric poetry, epic poetry, and the dithyramb-A song sung to praise Dionysus, the God of wine and fertility).

Today with a partner you will read and take notes on selections from *Poetics* and discuss how Oedipus Rex is the quintessential tragedy.



1. To begin, click on the following link to locate an online English translation of *Poetics*:

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/1974/1974-h/1974-h.htm>

2. Scroll down locating: Chapter 6 (VI), Chapter 11 (XI), Chapter 13 (XIII)

3. Take notes on how Aristotle defines tragedy in those three sections.

4. Make intertextual connections with your partner discussing how Oedipus Rex is the quintessential tragedy. Add your connections and findings to your notes.