

# CORIOLANUS



## THE SOLDIER: EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Often when thinking about literature, the terms 'hero' or 'villain' will be used to describe characters. From what you know of his character, do you feel either of these terms is an accurate way to describe Coriolanus?

There is a word we take from Greek that is useful in this case: 'protagonist', which roughly translates as the actor who plays the first part. The protagonist of a tragedy will have a tragic flaw that will lead to their downfall. Commonly, this flaw is 'hubris', a Greek (and modern English) word meaning arrogance. This arrogance might spring from various causes or be shown in various ways.

- In what ways do you consider Coriolanus to be arrogant? What heroic or villainous qualities do you think he has?
- Using what you know about Coriolanus' character, and the images and trailer to help you, write a character profile to help an actor playing Coriolanus to understand the role. What other film characters might you compare Coriolanus to in order to encourage an actor to research the role?

