

# A Brief Timeline of Classical Rhetoric

The prompt to read this information appears on p. 14 of *Acting on Words*

1200 BCE – 476 CE – era of Ancient Greek and Roman civilizations

Era of Greek epic literature: 9<sup>th</sup> cent BCE- 6<sup>th</sup> cent BCE (Homer, Aesop's beast fables)

Greek tragic drama: 6<sup>th</sup> cent BCE (Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides)

Golden Age of Athens: 5<sup>th</sup> cent BCE

Greek comic drama: 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> cent BCE (Aristophanes and Menander)

Greek philosophers and rhetoricians: 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> cents BCE (Gorgias, Isocrates, Plato, Aristotle)

Early Latin literature: 4<sup>th</sup> cent – 2<sup>nd</sup> cent BCE (Plautus and Terence)

Greek New Testament: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> cents CE

Cicero (Latin orator): 1<sup>st</sup> cent BCE

Golden Age Latin literature: 1<sup>st</sup> cent BCE- 1<sup>st</sup> cent CE (including Horace, Virgil, Ovid, and Livy)

Silver Age of Latin Literature: 1<sup>st</sup> cent CE – 2<sup>nd</sup> cent CE (including Seneca, Juvenal, Pliny the Younger, Apuleius)

Christian Latin Literature: 4<sup>th</sup> cent CE – 6<sup>th</sup> cent CE (including St Jerome, St Augustine,  
Boethius)