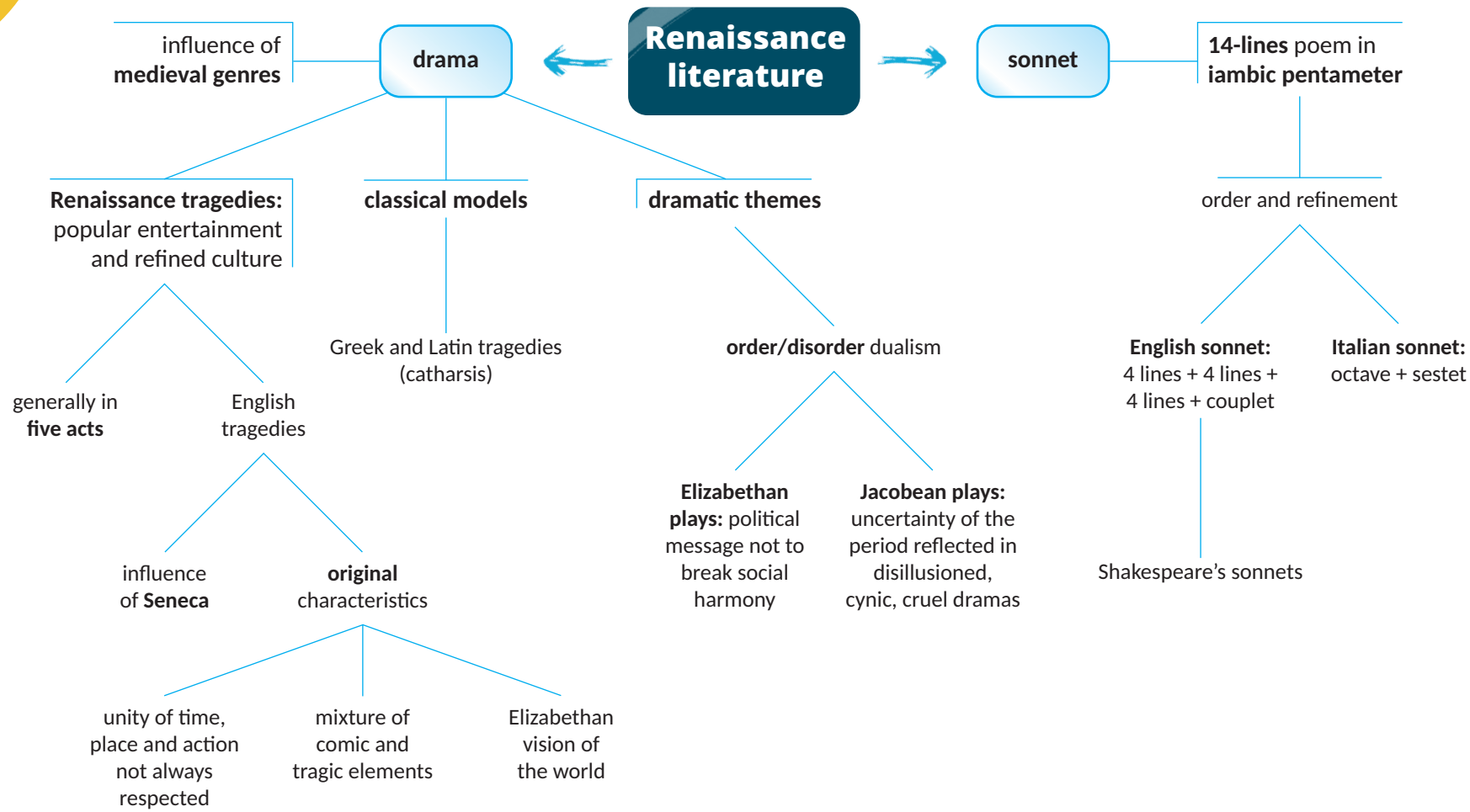
Renaissance literature
drama
influence of **medieval genres**
Renaissance tragedies: popular entertainment and refined culture
generally in **five acts**
English tragedies
influence of **Seneca**
original characteristics
unity of time, place and action not always respected
mixture of comic and tragic elements
Elizabethan vision of the world
classical models
Greek and Latin tragedies (catharsis)
dramatic themes
order/disorder dualism
Elizabethan plays: political message not to break social harmony
Jacobean plays: uncertainty of the period reflected in disillusioned, cynic, cruel dramas
sonnet
14-lines poem in **iambic pentameter**
order and refinement
English sonnet: 4 lines + 4 lines + 4 lines + couplet
Italian sonnet: octave + sestet
Shakespeare's sonnets