



DRAMA

What Is Drama?

Origins of Drama

- The word drama comes from the Greek verb dran, which means “to do.”
 - The earliest known plays were. . .
 - written around the fifth century B.C.
 - produced for festivals to honor Dionysus, the god of wine and fertility



What Is Drama?

A **drama** is a story enacted onstage for a live audience.



Drama vs. Prose Fiction

- Dramas are different from novels and short stories because of how the stories are presented.
- Playwrights (the authors of plays) depend on certain production elements and actors to tell a story.
 - Stage directions (instructions for the actors included in the script, often in brackets or italics)
 - Blocking (the positioning of the actors)
 - Costumes
 - Lighting
 - Props (objects used to help tell the story)
 - Scenery (the backdrops or physical elements on stage)

Features of Drama

These are:

1. Staging directions
2. A list of characters
3. Written to be performed
4. Written in the form of a script (dialogue)
5. Can include directions for costuming and physically setting a stage

Greek Theatre



Actors used to wear Masks

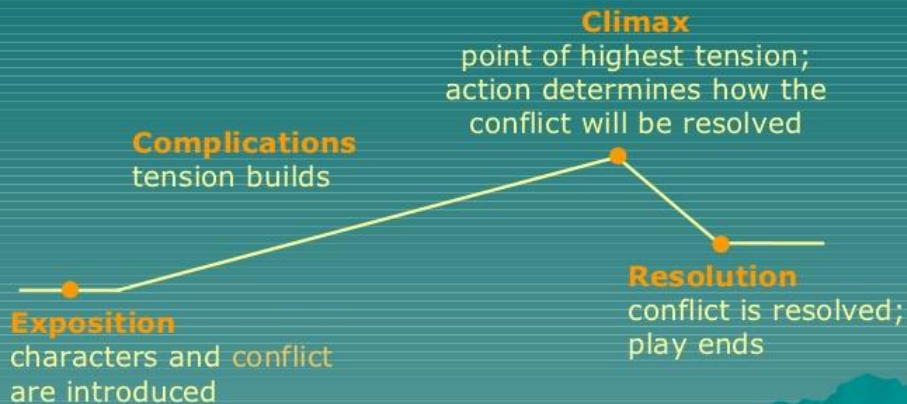


Features of drama

- ❖ The essence of a play is its performance on the stage, where the story is acted through the words and gestures of actors in front of an audience.
- ❖ A play is usually divided into a certain number of acts or scenes; each act can have one or more scenes.
The structure of Shakespeare's plays is usually:
 - Act I: Introduction
 - Act II: Development
 - Act III: Turning point or crisis
 - Act IV: Complication
 - Act V: Resolution
- ❖ The oldest and the most popular form of drama is *tragedy*. A tragedy is a dramatic work in which events move to a fatal or disastrous conclusion. Characters are heroes or heroines, their language is poetic.
- ❖ The opposite of *tragedy* is *comedy*, which is traditionally a humorous play always characterized by a happy ending; the characters are usually ordinary people set in everyday situations, their language is prosaic.

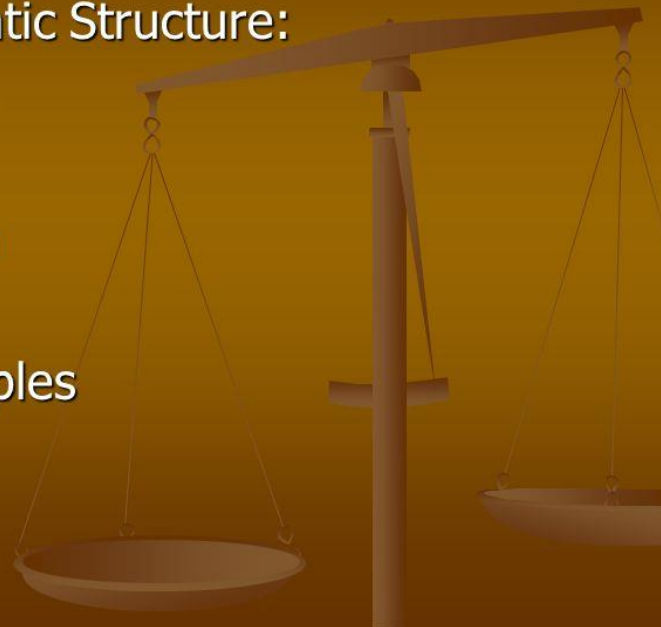
Dramatic Structure

Like the plot of a story, the plot of a play involves characters who face a problem or **conflict**.



Dramatic Structure

- Classical Dramatic Structure:
 1. Rising action
 2. Climax
 3. falling Action
 4. Catastrophe
- Structure Examples



Elements of Drama

CHARACTERS

PLOT

DIALOG

MUSIC

STAGECRAFT

DIRECTION

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The Five Elements of Drama

There are five main elements of drama:

- 1) Role/ Character
- 2) Relationship
- 3) Time and place
- 4) Tension
- 5) Focus and Emphasis

1) Role/ Character

There are many different types of characters:



nobility



townspeople



servants

1) Role/ Character

Each character should have their own backgrounds, feelings and motivations.

As an actor, you can depict your character through:

- voice
- expression
- gestures
- stance



3) Time and Place

The time and place is the **setting** of the drama.

Scene design transforms a bare stage into the world of the play. Scene design consists of

- sets
- lighting
- costumes
- props



Text Features of Drama

