

Elements Of Drama

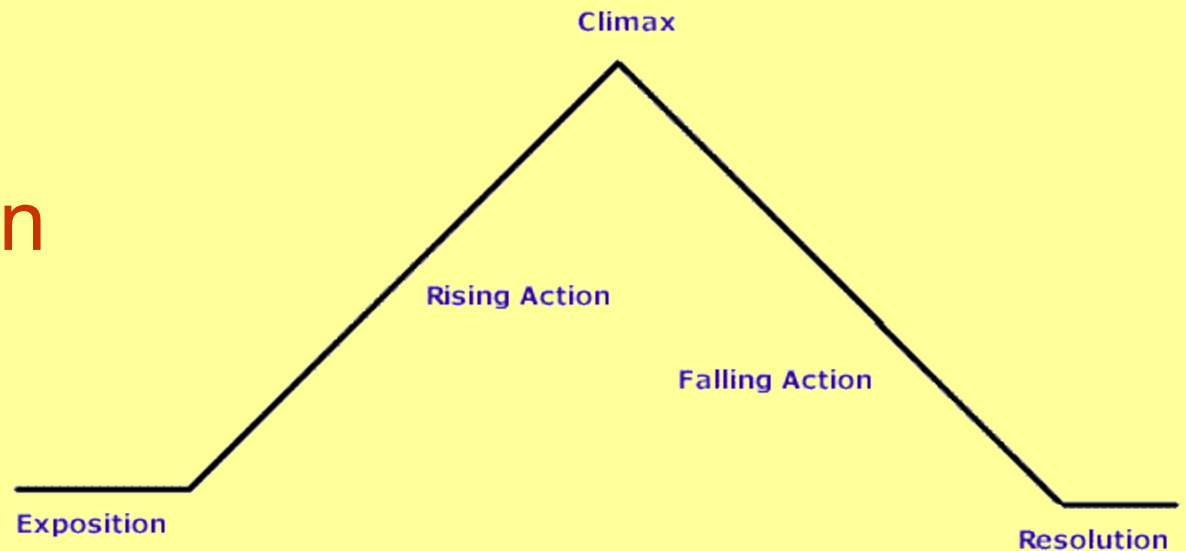
English II

Learning Objective: We will identify and describe the function of various dramatic elements

APK: Review the elements of a good story.

A good story has the following:

- Plot
- Conflict
- Basic situation
- Complication
- Climax
- Resolution
- Resolution/denouement



CFU: Pair share w/partner review the elements of plot.

Concept: Just like a regular story needs the elements of plot...

- So does a play
- A play is a story acted out, live and onstage.

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Concept: A play

- Presents characters performed by real people, in a physical setting, interacting before our eyes.

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Similarities of stories and plays

- Stories have
 - Characters carrying out a series of actions
 - driven by a conflict of some kind
 - Plot
- Plays have
 - Characters carrying out a series of action
 - driven by a conflict of some kind
 - Plot

CFU: Pair share A tell B the similarities of stories and plays

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They differ in format

- Stories
- A prose narrative
- Narrator describes characters, actions, settings
- The characters' words are marked by "quotation marks"
- Plays
- Consist entirely of characters' words and actions.
- The playwright may describe the characters and settings in the script, but the audience never hears these stage directions.
- The audience sees and hears only the actors' interpretations of them.

CFU: Pair share B tell A the differences between stories and plays.

Concept: What are elements of drama?

The Script for a play :

- is just its beginning, like a blueprint for a house. You can imagine what a house will look like by looking at the blueprint, but only when it's built can you walk around and really feel what the house is like.
- It takes a team of theatrical artists to bring a play to life.

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Concept: Technical workers

- Design and create
- costumes
- scenery
- lighting
- and makeup.

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Concept:

- Tragedy:
- A tragedy is the presentation of serious and important actions that end unhappily.
- Tragic Heroes:
- Some plays portray the suffering of innocent characters.
- In most tragedies the central character is a noble figure known as the tragic hero.

Tragic Hero Con't

- A tragic hero is a person who has a personal failing that leads to his or her downfall.
- This tragic flaw might be excessive pride, ambition, or passion – imperfections that lead the otherwise noble hero to make choices that doom him or her to a tragic end.

On Stage...

- Examples of tragic plays are *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Hamlet*.

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Character foil

- A **foil** is a character who is used as a **contrast** to another character.
- Playwrights often use foils to accentuate the distinct qualities of the two characters.
- In a tragedy, foils can highlight a hero's tragic flaw by showing an opposite virtue.

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Examples of foils

Buddy-cop movies

Men in Black

21 Jump Street

Bad Boys

“Everyday Use”

Dee and Maggie

“Through the Tunnel”

Jerry and the big boys

Dramatic Irony

- Occurs when the audience or reader knows something important that a character does not know.
- Ex: In *Romeo and Juliet*, the audience knows that Juliet is drugged and asleep, but her father thinks she is dead. The result is heartbreaking dramatic irony.

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Comedy

- A comedy is a simple play that ends happily.
- Like tragedy, a comedy is rooted in conflict, but the conflict in a comedy is often romantic.
- Ex. Someone wants to marry someone else but faces an obstacle – for example an opposing parent, or a rival suitor.

Comedy Con't

- In comedy the obstacle is always overcome but not before complications which are often ridiculous.

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Dramatic Conventions

- Drama has its own conventions, or traditions, including the script and stage directions.
- The script is the text of the play. It includes all of the words that actors will speak and some instructions for the actors, designers and director.

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Speaking the Part

- Dialogue: The conversation between characters in a play .
- Monologue: a long speech made by one actor to one or more other characters onstage.
- Soliloquy: a speech by a single actor who is ALONE on stage speaking to himself or herself or to the audience.
- Playwrights often use monologues and soliloquies to develop ideas or express complex emotions.

P/S Describe the difference between a monologue and a soliloquy.

Aside: This is when a character speaks to the audience or to another character but the dialogue is not supposed to be heard by the other characters on stage.

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Stage Directions

- Scripts also include stage directions, which describe where objects are placed, as well as directions on how the actors should move and speak.

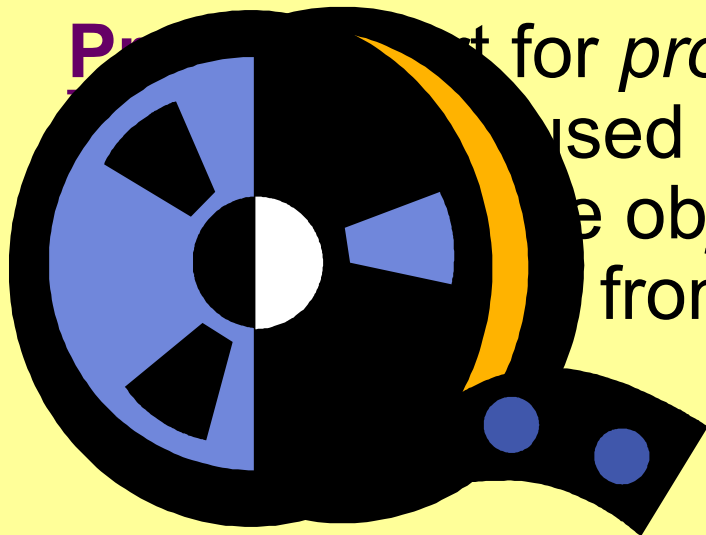
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Technical Elements

Scenery (set): the theatrical equipment, such as curtains, flats, backdrops, or platforms, used in a dramatic production to communicate environment

Costumes: clothing and accessories worn by actors to portray character and period.

Properties: *properties*; any article, except costume, used as part of a dramatic production; the object that appears on stage during a play, from a telephone to a train.

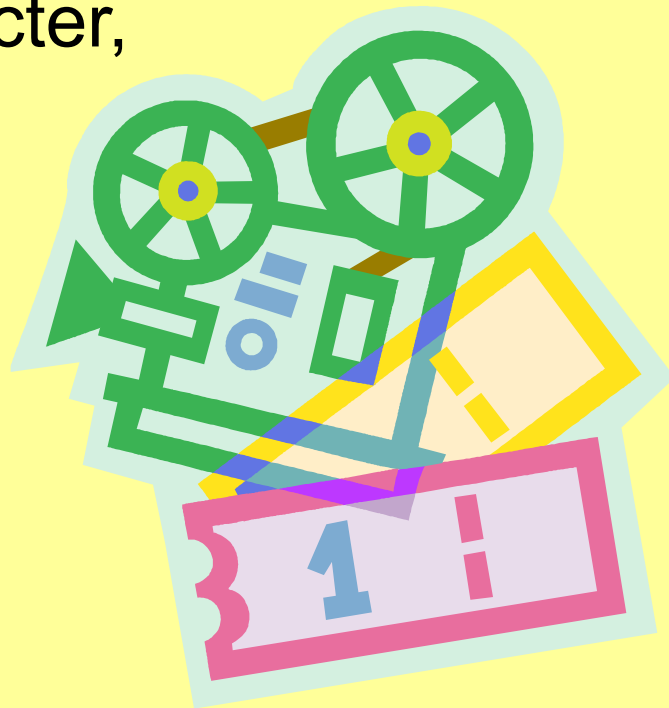


Technical Elements

Lights: the placement, intensity, and color of lights to Help communicate environment, mood, or feeling

Sound: the effects an audience hears during performance to communicate character, context, or environment

Makeup: costumes, wigs, and body paint used to transform an actor into a character.



Closure:

- What is one thing you learned today?
- **Write it!**
- **Pair share it!**
- **Tell me about it!**

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