

ELEMENTS OF DRAMA



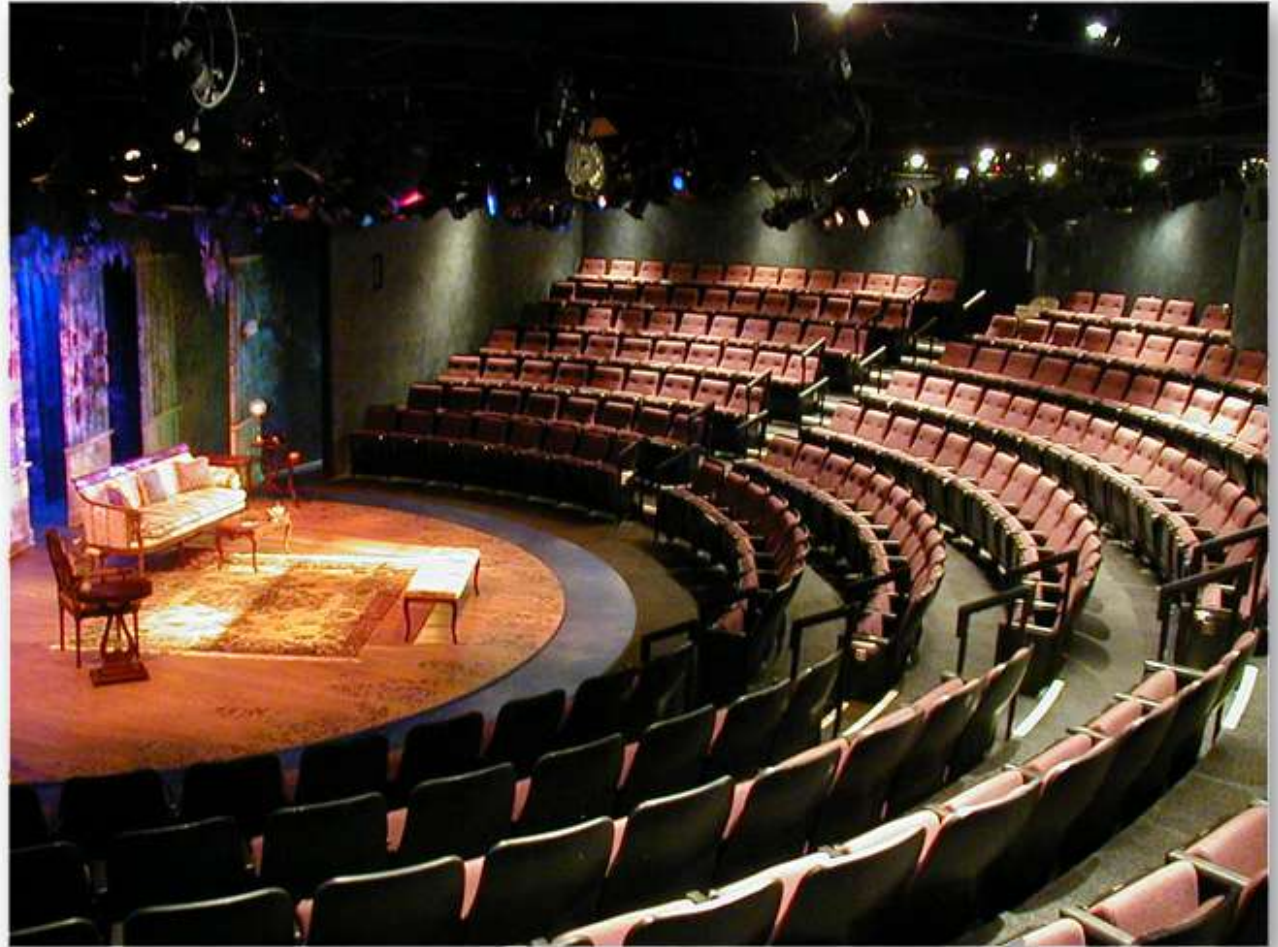
Drama

- The word *drama* comes from the Greek verb *dran*, which means “to do.” The Doing/Acting is what makes drama.
 - The earliest known plays. . .
 - Were written around the fifth century B.C
 - Produced for festivals to honor Dionysus, the god of wine and fertility



Drama...

- ...is a story told in front of an audience.



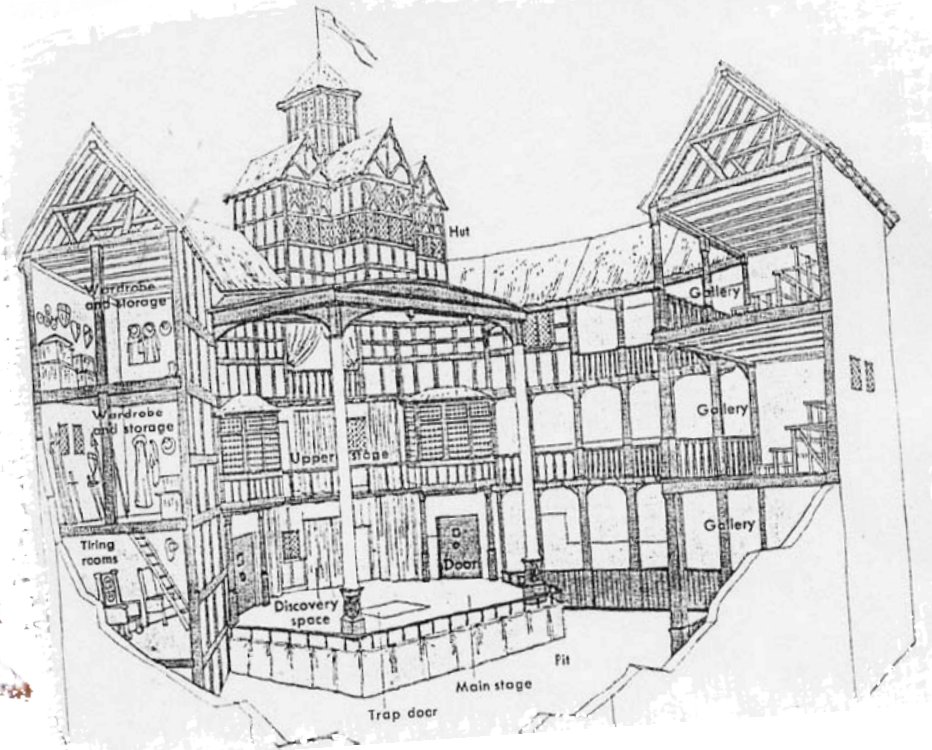
The Globe Theater

- Where many of Shakespeare's plays were performed in London, England
 - Open during summer months
 - Daytime performances only
 - Open-Air; O-shaped
 - Burned by cannonball landing on the roof during a performance



Globe Theater

- “**Groundlings**” paid one cent to stand in the pit
- **Gentry** paid more for seats in galleries
- **Nobles** sat in chairs on side of stage

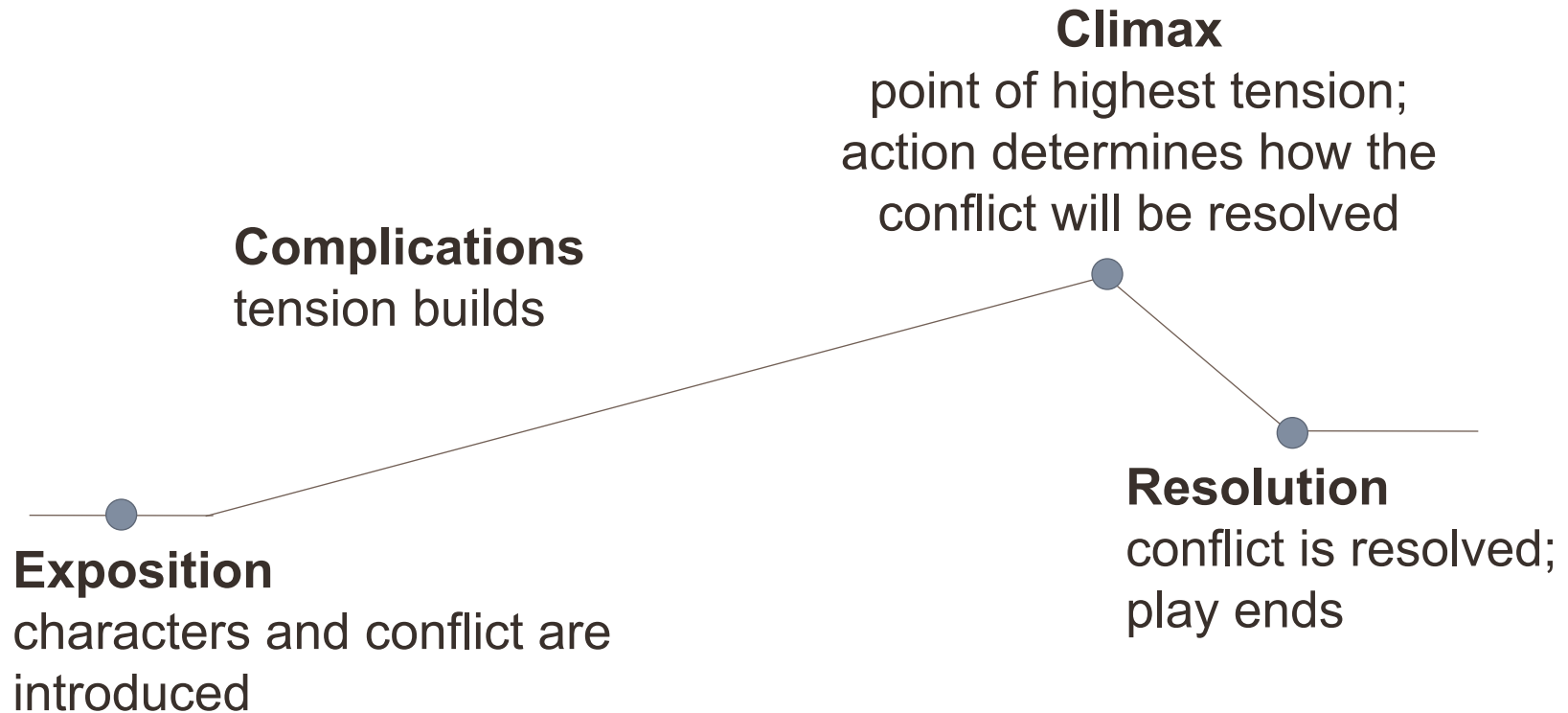


Mrs. Vessell's Pictures of the Globe Theater



Dramatic Structure

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



Elements of Drama



The People

- **Playwright**-the author of a play
- **Actors**-the people who perform

The Play

- **Acts**-the units of action
- **Scenes**-smaller parts of the acts

Actors

- During Shakespeare's time, women were not allowed to act
- All female roles were played by men (usually by young boys)



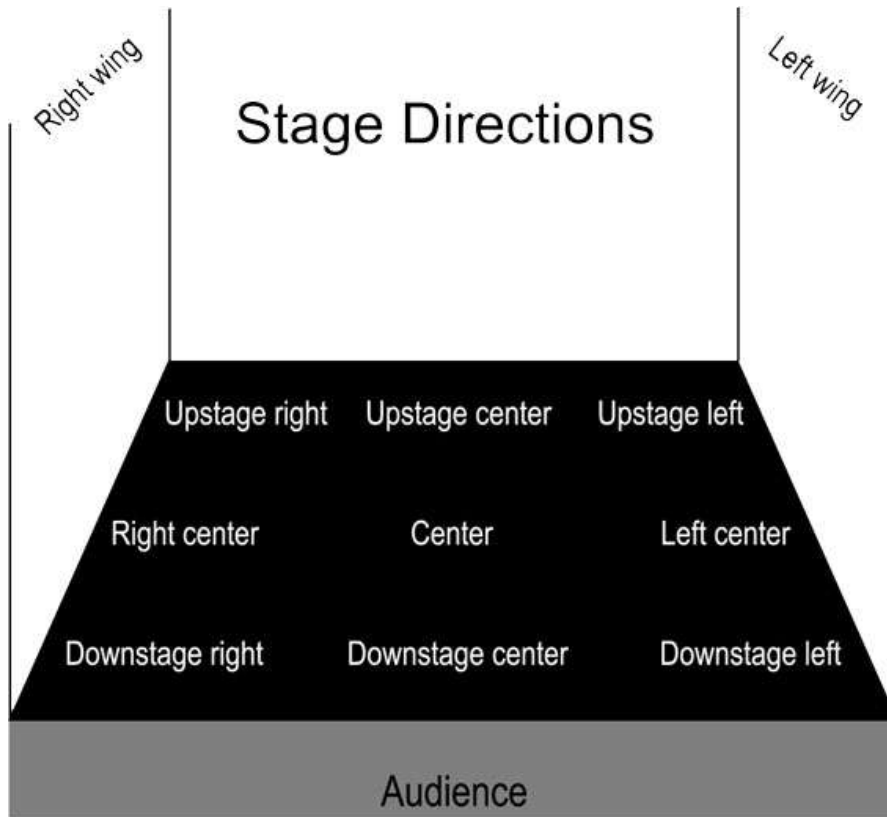
Dramatic Speech

The characters' speech may take any of the following forms:

- Dialogue- conversations of characters on stage
- Monologue- long speech given by one character to the others
- Soliloquy- speech by a character alone onstage to himself, herself, or to the audience
- Aside- remarks made to the audience or to one character: the other characters onstage do not hear an aside



Stage Directions



- Found in brackets []
- Describe scenery and how characters speak
- From the viewpoint of the actor looking at the audience
 - C, Center Stage
 - L, Stage Left
 - R, Stage Right
 - U, Upstage or Rear
 - D, Downstage or Front

There are two [main] types of plays

- Tragedies

- Comedies



Tragedy

A **tragedy** is a play that ends unhappily.

- Most classic Greek tragedies deal with serious, universal themes such as



right and wrong

justice and injustice

life and death

- Tragedies put human limitations against the larger forces of destiny.

Tragedy

The protagonist of most classical tragedies is a **tragic hero**. This hero:

- is **noble** and in many ways **admirable**
- has a **tragic flaw**, a personal failing, that leads to a tragic end

pride

rebelliousness

jealousy



Comedy

A **comedy** is a play that ends happily. The plot usually centers on a romantic conflict.

boy meets girl



boy loses girl



boy wins girl



Comedy

The main characters in a comedy could be anyone, from any walk of life.:



nobility



townspeople



servants

Comedy

- Comic complications always occur before the conflict is resolved.



- In most cases, the play ends with a wedding...or two... or three.



Language of Shakespeare

- Meter is a rhythm of accented and unaccented syllables which are organized into patterns, called feet.
 - Using the same meter throughout a play helped actors memorize their lines.
- ★ • Shakespeare used iambic pentameter as his meter.

Iambic Pentameter

- Iambic foot (Iamb)— a pair of syllables containing short/long or unstressed/stressed syllables.
- Pentameter= five
- So **iambic pentameter** *is a line that contains five iambs* (10 syllables in an unstressed--stressed pattern)

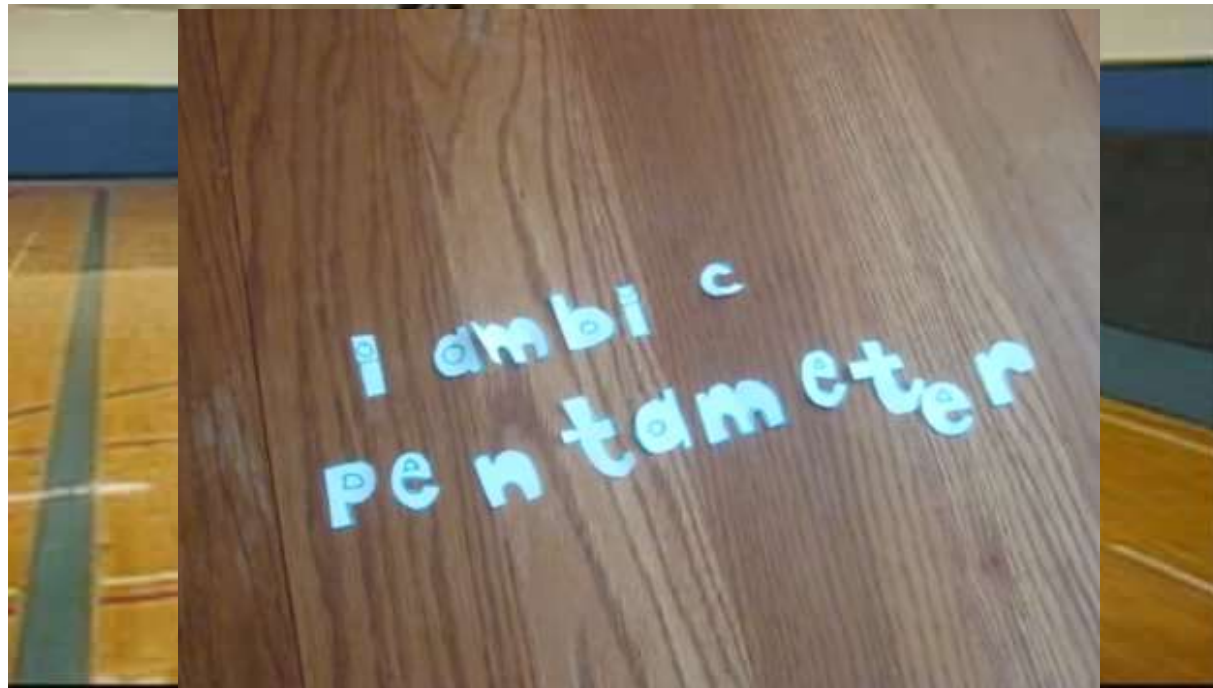
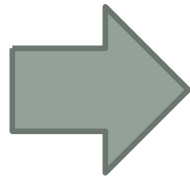
Makes a sound like a heartbeat

daDUM daDUM daDUM daDUM daDUM

Examples

- When I do count the clock that tells the time
 - when **I** do **COUNT** the **CLOCK** that **TELLS** the **TIME**
- To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
 - to **SWELL** the **GOURD**, and **PLUMP** the **HAZEL SHELLS**

...and here it is...
explained another
way...

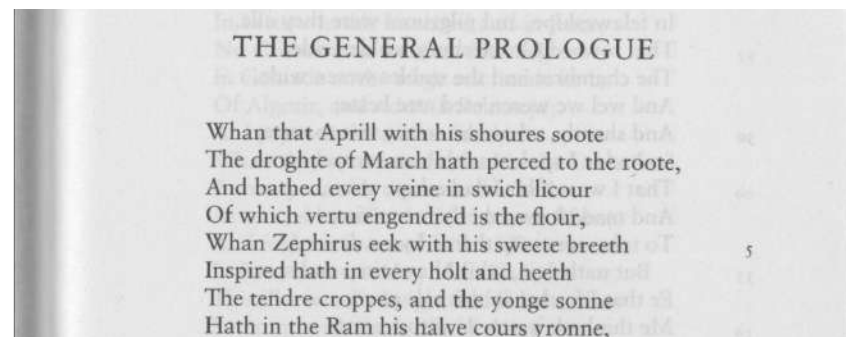


Mrs. Vessell's #1 Pet Peeve:

- Shakespeare **did not write in “Old” English**; in fact, it is actually very similar to the English that we speak today.

For mange Aar siden levede en Keiser, som holdt saa uhyre meget af smukke nye Klæder, at han gav alle sine Penge ud for ret at blive pyntet. Han brød sig ikke om sine Soldater, brød sig ei om Comedie eller om at kjøre i Skoven, uden alene for at vise sine nye Klæder. Han havde en Kjole for hver Time paa Dagen, og ligesom man siger om en Konge, han er i Raadel, saa sagde man altid her: >>Keiseren er i Garderoben!<< --

Old English



Middle English

Shakespeare—Modern English



"Be not afraid of greatness: some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them."

William Shakespeare

IF MUSIC
BE THE
FOOD OF
LOVE
PLAY ON

"I would challenge you
to a battle of wits,
but I see you are unarmed."

-William Shakespeare

A FOOL THINKS HIMSELF TO BE WISE,
BUT A WISE MAN KNOWS
HIMSELF TO BE A FOOL

William Shakespeare

"And though she be but little,
she is fierce."

- Shakespeare