

SUBJECT: LITERATURE-IN-ENGLISH

CLASS: SS 1

WEEK: 2

TOPIC: Genres of Literature I – Drama

DURATION: 40 Minutes

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

In Week 2, students are introduced to **Drama** as a key genre of literature. Drama combines **performance, dialogue, and conflict** to tell stories meant for stage or screen. This lesson includes detailed definitions, characteristics, types of drama, Nigerian and international examples, and practical applications for literary appreciation.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this lesson, students should be able to:

1. Define drama in detail.
 2. Identify the main characteristics of drama.
 3. Recognize and explain the different types of drama.
 4. Provide examples of Nigerian and international dramatic works.
 5. Appreciate the use of dialogue, performance, and conflict in storytelling.
 6. Analyze how drama reflects societal issues and human experiences.
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1. DRAMA

Detailed Definition

Drama is a **literary genre that presents a story primarily through performance, dialogue, and action**. Unlike prose or poetry, drama is intended to be enacted by actors before an audience. It explores **human experiences, conflicts, emotions, and social issues** through structured performance.

Key Characteristics of Drama

- **Performance-Oriented:** Written to be acted out, with emphasis on visual and auditory presentation.
- **Dialogue:** Conversation between characters drives the plot.
- **Conflict:** Central tension or struggle between opposing forces, often forming the story's core.
- **Plot Structure:** Includes exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.
- **Characters:** Individuals portrayed by actors, including protagonist, antagonist, and supporting roles.
- **Stage Directions:** Instructions for actors' movements, expressions, and tone.
- **Themes:** Underlying messages about life, society, or human nature.

Nigerian and International Examples

- **Nigerian:** "Death and the King's Horseman" by Wole Soyinka, "Trials of Brother Jero" by Wole Soyinka, folk plays.
 - **International:** "Romeo and Juliet" by William Shakespeare, "Oedipus Rex" by Sophocles, "A Doll's House" by Henrik Ibsen.
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2. TYPES OF DRAMA

2.1 Tragedy

- **Definition:** Drama that presents serious themes, typically involving the downfall of a noble or heroic character due to a personal flaw or fate.
- **Characteristics:** Serious tone, catharsis, noble protagonist, and inevitable misfortune.
- **Examples:** "Oedipus Rex" (Sophocles), "Death and the King's Horseman" (Wole Soyinka).

2.2 Comedy

- **Definition:** Drama that aims to entertain and amuse, often ending happily.
- **Characteristics:** Humorous situations, clever dialogue, satire, and resolution of conflict.
- **Examples:** "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (Shakespeare), "The Lion and the Jewel" (Wole Soyinka).

2.3 Tragi-comedy

- **Definition:** Combines elements of both tragedy and comedy.
- **Characteristics:** Serious themes with humorous relief, unpredictable ending.
- **Examples:** "The Merchant of Venice" (Shakespeare).

2.4 Farce

- **Definition:** Highly exaggerated comedy relying on improbable situations and physical humor.
- **Characteristics:** Slapstick, absurd situations, exaggerated characters.
- **Examples:** Traditional Yoruba folk plays, some scenes in Shakespearean comedies.

2.5 Mime

- **Definition:** Drama performed without dialogue, using gestures, expressions, and movement to tell the story.
- **Characteristics:** Silent acting, expressive body language, visual storytelling.
- **Examples:** Mime performances in Nigerian cultural festivals, classic mimes by Marcel Marceau.

2.6 Opera

- **Definition:** Drama set to music, combining singing, orchestral music, and sometimes dance.
- **Characteristics:** Musical performance, theatrical elements, elaborate staging.
- **Examples:** Western opera such as "The Magic Flute" (Mozart); Nigerian experimental musical theater adaptations.

3. PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

- Encourages students to **enact scenes** to understand characterization and dialogue.
- Promotes **literary analysis** of themes, conflicts, and societal reflections.
- Enhances appreciation of **performance art** and the cultural context of drama.
- Enables students to **compare Nigerian and international dramatic styles**.

Text-Based Diagrams / Visuals

- **Drama Flowchart:** Plot → Characters → Conflict → Dialogue → Performance → Resolution.
 - **Types of Drama Diagram:** Tragedy | Comedy | Tragi-comedy | Farce | Mime | Opera.
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SUMMARY

Drama is a literary genre centered on performance, dialogue, and conflict. Its types—tragedy, comedy, tragi-comedy, farce, mime, and opera—offer diverse ways to explore human experiences. Nigerian and international examples illustrate how drama entertains, educates, and reflects society. Understanding drama equips students with the skills to appreciate literature as both a written and performed art form.