

Drama is a composition in prose form that represents a story told entirely in dialogue and action. It is written with the intention of its eventual performance before an audience. Drama has a two-fold nature: that of literature and theater.

Elements of Drama

- A. **Setting** identifies the time and place in which the events occur. It consists of the historical period, the moment, day and season when incidents take place. It also includes the scenery in the performance which is usually found in the preliminary descriptions.
- B. **Characters** are the people in the play and thus, considered as the principal material in a drama.

Character Aspects

- **Physical** identifies peripheral facts such as age, sexual category, size, race, and color. It deals with external attributes which may be envisaged from the description of the playwright or deduced from what the characters say or what other characters verbalize about his appearance.
 - **Social** embraces all aspects that be can gleaned from the character's world or environment as exemplified by the economic status, occupation or trade, creed, familial affiliation of the characters.
 - **Psychological** discloses the inner mechanism of the mind of the characters as exemplified by the habitual responses, attitudes, longings, purposes, likes and dislikes. It is considered as the most indispensable level of character categorization because routines and emotions, thoughts, attitude, and behavior enable the readers to know the character intrinsically.
 - **Moral** discloses the decisions of the characters, either socially acceptable or not, exposing their intentions, thus projecting what is upright or not.
- C. **Plot** lays out the series of events that form the entirety of the play. It serves as a structural framework which brings the events to a cohesive form and sense.

Types of Plot

- **Natural Plot** is a chronological sequence of events arrangement where actions continuously take place as an end-result of the previous action.
- **Episodic Plot** is made up of series of episodes where the story builds up and characters interrelate cohesively as the theme develops. Each episode independently comprises a setting, climax and resolution; therefore, a full story itself is formed.

Plot as a Framework

1. **Beginning** identifies information about the place, such as geographical location, social, cultural, political background or period when the event took place.
2. **Exposition** is the point where the playwright commences his story. It reveals the identity of the story's initial crisis.
3. **Unfolding Plot** establishes the story at a point near climax, conclusion, or end. The events leading to the climax are assumed to have taken place and thus revealed little by little.
4. **Accretive Plot** begins the narration from the very first incident to its peak. An early point of attack is expected; however, the sequence of events moves chronologically.
5. **Middle** is composed of a series of difficulties:
 - a. **Complications** bring changes and alterations in the movement of the action which takes place when discovery of novel information, unexpected alteration of plan, choosing between two (2) courses of action or preface of new ideas are revealed. Any of the aforementioned may likely create problems that destabilize the situation, narrowing the likelihood for action leading to crisis.
 - b. **Crisis** reveals the peak of anticipation in the series of incidents.
 - c. **Obligatory Scene** identifies the open collision between two (2) opposing characters or forces.

- d. **Discovery** discloses points which are previously unknown, characterized as something mysterious, strange, unfamiliar and thus revealed through object, persons, facts, values, or curtain as peace is completely restored.
6. **Theme** is considered as the unifying element that defines the dramatized idea of the play. It is the over-all sense or implications of the actions. It defines the problem, emphasizes the ethical judgement and suggests attitude of course of action that eliminates the crisis in an acceptable way.
7. **Style** refers to the mode of expression or presentation of the play which points out the playwright's position or viewpoint in life.

Major Dramatic Attitude

1. **Realism** is an accurate, detailed, and life-like description in a play where things are presented as real as can be set in actual life, with dialogues sounding like day-to-day conversation.
2. **Non-realism** is a method of presentation identified as something stylized or theatricalized whereby an artist uses his imagination in projecting his ideas.

Types of Drama

1. **Tragedy** is a play in which the main character is brought to ruin or suffers a great sorrow. This type raises vital points about man, his existence, his moral nature, and his social and psychological relationships.
2. **Comedy** is play that brings laughter where the protagonist leaps over all difficulties placed in his way and ultimately achieves his goal notwithstanding awkwardness. The stroke in comedy is based on some divergence from customariness or familiarity in the different elements.
3. **Melodrama** is drawn for tragedy and characterized as something overstated which concentrates on action. It deals with stern feat and concludes in a happy resolution. It is only achieved when the power of the villain is neutralized or combated.
4. **Farce** is a play that brings laughter for the sake of laughter, usually making use of grossly embellished events and character. Unlikely plots and entertaining characterization are used for stimulation.

References:

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