

# Drama

Types of Plays

Dialogue, Monologue, Asides,  
and Soliloquies

Stage Directions

Plot and Conflict

# Drama

Drama is writing that is meant to be performed by actors for an audience. The script consists of dialogue – the words the actors say – plus stage directions, which are comments on how and where the actors move and speak.

When you read drama, you “set the stage” in your own mind, using your imagination to visualize the scenery, lighting, costumes, and actors.

# Types of Plays

- *Comedy* – A humorous play with a happy ending.
- *Tragedy* – The hero suffers a major downfall due to some weakness or flaw.
- *Drama* – A serious play, although the consequences are not necessarily as dire as those in a tragedy.

# Dialogue and Monologue

- **Dialogue** is conversation between two or more characters.
- A **Monologue** is a lengthy speech that one character addresses to others on stage.

The purposes of both are to reveal character traits and to advance the action of the story.

# Asides and Soliloquies

- *Asides* are speeches, often short, made to the audience or to himself, or even to another character, but out of earshot of the other characters on stage.
- A *Soliloquy* is a long speech that reveals a character's true thoughts or feelings, unheard by other characters, usually while alone on stage.

The purposes of both are to reveal the character's thoughts or confidences while advancing the action of the story.

# Stage Directions

- Stage directions are the instructions for performing a play and the descriptions of settings, characters, and actions.
- They help you visualize the play.
- The directions indicate the directions from on stage: upstage, downstage, stage right, or stage left.

# Plot and Conflict

- A play, like a short story, contains a plot, or a series of events, involving a conflict.
- The conflict may be introduced early in the play, perhaps in the opening scene.
- Tension builds to the climax and by the end of the play the conflict is resolved.
- The resolution of the conflict reveals the play's theme.