

ELEMENTS OF DRAMA



WHAT IS DRAMA?

- ◉ meant to be performed for an audience
- ◉ a play
- ◉ Some are presented live on stage
- ◉ Some are recorded on film
- ◉ The author of a drama is called a **playwright**.

DRAMA IS SIMILAR TO FICTION

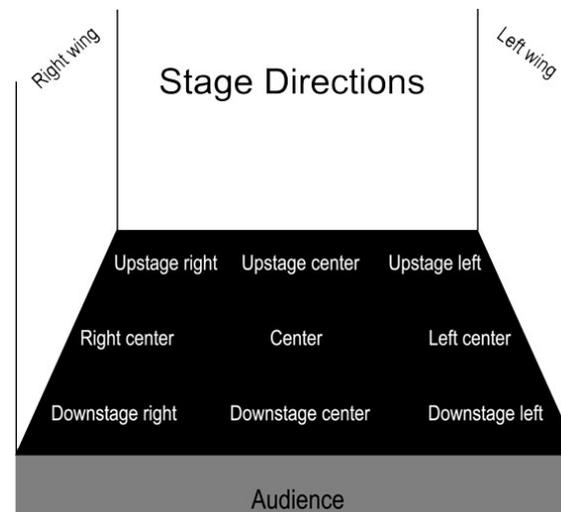
- ◉ Characters - made-up people who interact in a particular setting
- ◉ Setting - the environment
- ◉ Conflict - the struggle
- ◉ Plot - series of actions
- ◉ Climax - the highest point of tension
- ◉ Resolution - the action winds down

ELEMENTS OF DRAMA

- ① 1. Stage Directions
- ② 2. Dialogue
- ③ 3. Set/Scenery
- ④ 4. Props
- ⑤ 5. Acts and Scenes

1. STAGE DIRECTIONS

- ◉ are the playwright's instructions about how to perform the drama.
- ◉ Tell how actors should speak and move
- ◉ Give details about lighting, sound effects and costumes



STAGE DIRECTIONS ABBREVIATIONS

- ◉ **C** - center stage
- ◉ **D** - downstage (nearest to audience)
- ◉ **U** - upstage (farthest from audience)
- ◉ **L** - stage left (audience's right)
- ◉ **R** - stage right (audience's left)

2. DIALOGUE

- ◉ Conversation between or among characters



3. SET/SCENERY

- Used to describe the construction onstage that suggests the time and place of the action.



4. PROPS

- ◉ Small movable items that actors use to make their actions look realistic
- ◉ Examples - a pen, a doctor's clipboard, a notebook, a telephone, a ball, a sofa, etc.
- ◉ What props might you include in a scene set in a classroom?

5. ACTS AND SCENES

- The basic units of action in a drama
- A full-length drama may consist of several acts.

TWO BASIC CATEGORIES OF DRAMA

- 1. Comedy
- 2. Tragedy



1. COMEDY

- ◉ Features ordinary people in funny or ridiculous situations
- ◉ Usually has a happy ending
- ◉ Meant to entertain, but also may point out humor weaknesses and the faults of society

2. TRAGEDY

- ◉ Shows the downfall of the main character, known as the **tragic hero**
- ◉ The tragic hero may be an admirable person with a fault that brings about his or her destruction
- ◉ The hero may be an ordinary person destroyed by an evil force of society

OTHER COMMON TYPES OF DRAMAS

- ◉ 1. screenplays
- ◉ 2. teleplays
- ◉ 3. radio plays

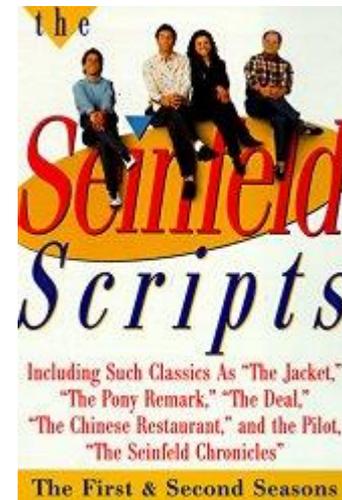
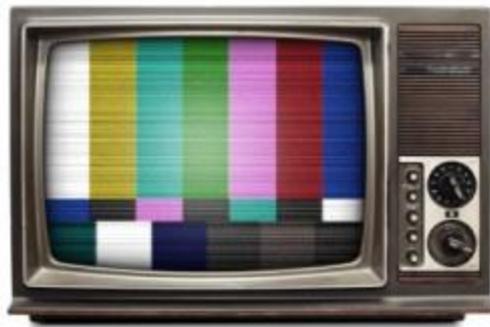
SCREENPLAYS

- ◉ Scripts for films
- ◉ Include camera angles and can allow for more scene changes than a stage play



TELEPLAYS

- ◉ Scripts written for television
- ◉ They contain elements similar to a screenplay



RADIO PLAYS

- ◉ Written to be performed as radio broadcasts
- ◉ Include sound effects and do not require a set

