Elements of Drama
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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.  
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yGgsJd4_r4k

- **Tragedy**—The hero suffers a major downfall due to some weakness or flaw.  
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a38HZFbhB-M
Dialogue and Monologue

- **Dialogue** is conversation between two or more characters.
  
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-0HLj3OVuc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-0HLj3OVuc)

- **A Monologue** is a lengthy speech that one character addresses to others on stage.
  
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oj16vfbsM9A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oj16vfbsM9A)

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.
  
  ![YouTube Asides](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iO2SirSH7Rg)

- **A Soliloquy** is a long speech that reveals a character’s true thoughts or feelings, unheard by other characters, usually while alone on stage.

  ![YouTube Soliloquy](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYZHb2xo0OI)

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.
Farce

A farce is a humorous play that presents ridiculous situations, comic dialogue, and physical humor. Sometimes the purpose of a farce is simply to keep the audience laughing. In other cases, the writer might want to poke fun at someone or something in particular.

Ferris Bueller
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhiCFdWeQfA

Ace Ventura
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jx_cqQ9KQwk
Elements of a Farce

- An absurd plot driven by a humorous conflict.
- Exaggerated behavior and language
- Characters who often exhibit just one comic trait or quality
- Clever wordplay, including puns and double meanings
- Physical comedy
Dumb and Dumber clip
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KAWoP1knRE

Bringing up Baby
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4U4aA0ZmVM

Spaceballs
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5drjr9PmTMA

- Frazier
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7XN-J_0nYhI

More Examples