

Ministry of Higher education
University of Tikrit
College of Basic Education / Al-
Shirqat



*An Introduction to Drama, One Act Play
and Hamlet*

English Department

Third Stage

First Semester

Instructor
Shakir Hussein

D. **THE FALLING ACTION:** In this part the characters start to come to terms with their dilemmas and problems when the plot unfolds to pave the way for the conclusion.

E. **THE CONCLUSION:** this is the final positive or negative resolution of the complications that the characters are subjected to. The conclusion can give a suggestive clue to the understanding of the message of the play or the writer's view of his subject.

F. **DIALOGUE:** Generally, the dramatic dialogue refers the speeches said by the characters in the play and it is the dramatist's basic medium to communicate his ideas to the audience. The functions of the dialogue are to transmit the plot expose the characters' nature and the changes they pass through. The nature of the dialogue in the play determined by the nature of the theme and the audience In addition to the writer's personal style. A good dramatist should succeed in conveying all the dramatic elements in the most effective form and language. The dramatic dialogue covers various forms of speech as in the use of the "soliloquy "And "Aside".

8. **Soliloquy:** A speech in which a character- alone on the stage expresses his thoughts and feelings. He is "thinking aloud" for the benefit of the audience.

9. **Aside:** A few words or sentences spoken by a character in a play to the audience. They are supposed to be inaudible to the other characters on the stage.

10. **IRONY:** The discrepancy between words and their meaning, or between actions and their results, or between appearances and reality.

11. **CONFLICT:** An essential element for all action. It can take three forms.

1. The tension or actual opposition of two or more characters (usually between the protagonist and the antagonist)
2. The tension and oppositions within one character (usually the protagonist)
3. The conflict between a character and outside forces, such as society, or a moral code.

12. PLOT: A series of actions arranged in such a way as to induce curiosity and suspense in the audience. An essential element of any plot is conflict.

13. Unities: Aristotle's theory of writing plays is that a play should adhere to the "Three Unities": the unity of time, the unity of place and the unity of action. The time of the action should be limited to the twenty-four hours, the scene should be confined to one town, the action should be unified plot.

Kinds of Drama: The most important kinds of drama

1. Tragedy: it is basically a play that presents a great man falling towards a sorrowful ending which is usually death. There are different types of tragedy. In the classical and Elizabethan tragedies, the dramatists sought to dramatize the sense of social and a universal disorder as suggested through the affairs of the tragic hero. The modern tragedy of the 19th and 20th centuries, that handles a narrower sense of disorder in a family or an individual, which is taken as a miniature for the universal disorder.

2. **Comedy:** The essential function of comedy is to amuse the audience and hence make them think. Comedy consists of laughing at people caught in difficult situation and to explore the important human follies.

Thus, in comedy most of the characters are types who stand for certain personal and social attitudes, yet in some comedies (Shakespeare's for example) characters are given greater depth and complexity.

The style most suited to this kind of drama is the prose style that gives the play a life-like atmosphere and allows wide possibilities for the displaying of wit and pun.

According to their themes comedies can be classified as follows: Romantic Comedy, Satiric Comedy, Comedy of Manners, Domestic Comedy, etc.

3. **Domestic Comedy:** A form of drama about middle-class life and characters with emphasis upon family situations and problems.

4. **One-Act-Play:** A play consisting of only one act, usually short with a playing time of five to forty minutes. It concentrates on one single episode or situation. In theme mood and subject the range is considerable.

5. **Quart d'heure :** it is French (quarter of an hour): a short one-act-play used as a curtain-raiser, common in French theater.