



English I: Reading: Module 3: Practice 5: Section 3

Literary Terminology

Drama Terms

Instructions: Use a highlighter or other tool to mark terms you need to review further.

Drama Terms

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| act | one of the principal divisions of a theatrical work (as a play or opera) |
| classical play | a play that is widely acknowledged for its outstanding and enduring qualities (e.g., <i>Hamlet</i> by William Shakespeare) |
| comedy | a drama of light and amusing character and typically with a happy ending |
| dialogue | <p>the lines spoken between characters in fiction or a play</p> <p>Dialogue in a play is the main way in which plot, character, and other elements are established.</p> |
| dramatic convention | <p>a set of rules the actor, writer, and/or director employs to create a desired dramatic effect that is understood by the audience</p> <p>For example, when a character recites a soliloquy in a play by moving downstage, the audience understands that the other characters on the stage cannot hear him or her.</p> |
| dramatic irony | a dramatic device in which a character says or does something that he or she does not fully grasp but which is understood by the audience |
| genre | <p>the type or class of a work, usually categorized by form, technique, or content</p> <p>Some examples of literary genres are epic, tragedy, comedy, poetry, novel, short story, and creative nonfiction.</p> |
| monologue | a dramatic convention in which a speech is given by a single character, either alone or to others |
| narrate | to tell (as a story) in detail; to provide spoken commentary for (as a movie or television show) |
| playwright | a person who writes plays |
| scene | <p>one of the subdivisions of a play as</p> <p>a. a division of an act presenting continuous action in one place</p> <p>b. a single situation or unit of dialogue in a play (the love <i>scene</i>)</p> |
| script | a written version of the speech and actions of performers, as in a play or film |
| setting | <p>the time and place in which a narrative occurs</p> <p>Elements of setting may include the physical, psychological, cultural, or historical background against which the story takes place.</p> |
| soliloquy | a dramatic convention in which a speech is given by a character while, or as if, alone; literally, “talking to oneself” |
| stage set | scenery and properties designed and arranged for a particular scene in a play |
| suspense | the sustained interest created by the buildup of events and delayed resolution of the plot’s conflict |
| tragedy | a serious drama typically describing a conflict between the protagonist and a superior force (as destiny) and having a sorrowful or disastrous conclusion that elicits pity or terror |
| tragicomedy | a drama or a situation blending tragic and comic elements |