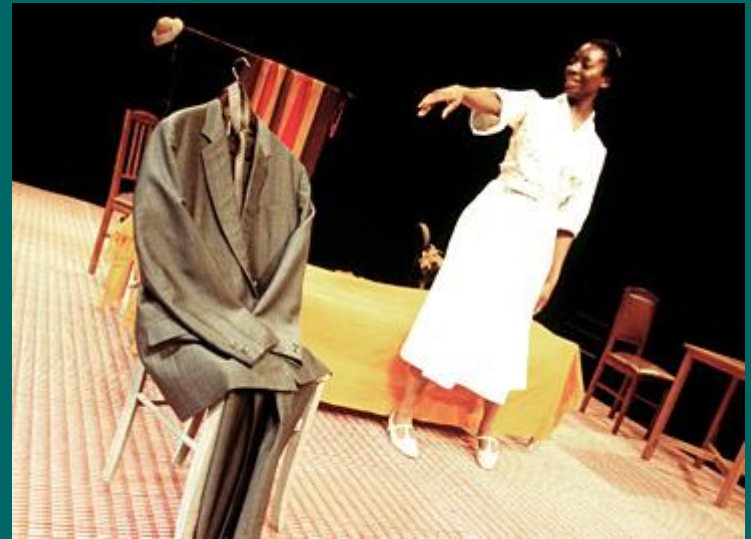


Drama



What Is Drama?

Drama is literature written for performance to be acted out for a live audience.



Dramatic Structure

Like the plot of a story, the plot of a play involves characters who face a problem or **conflict**.

Climax

point of highest tension;
action determines how the
conflict will be resolved

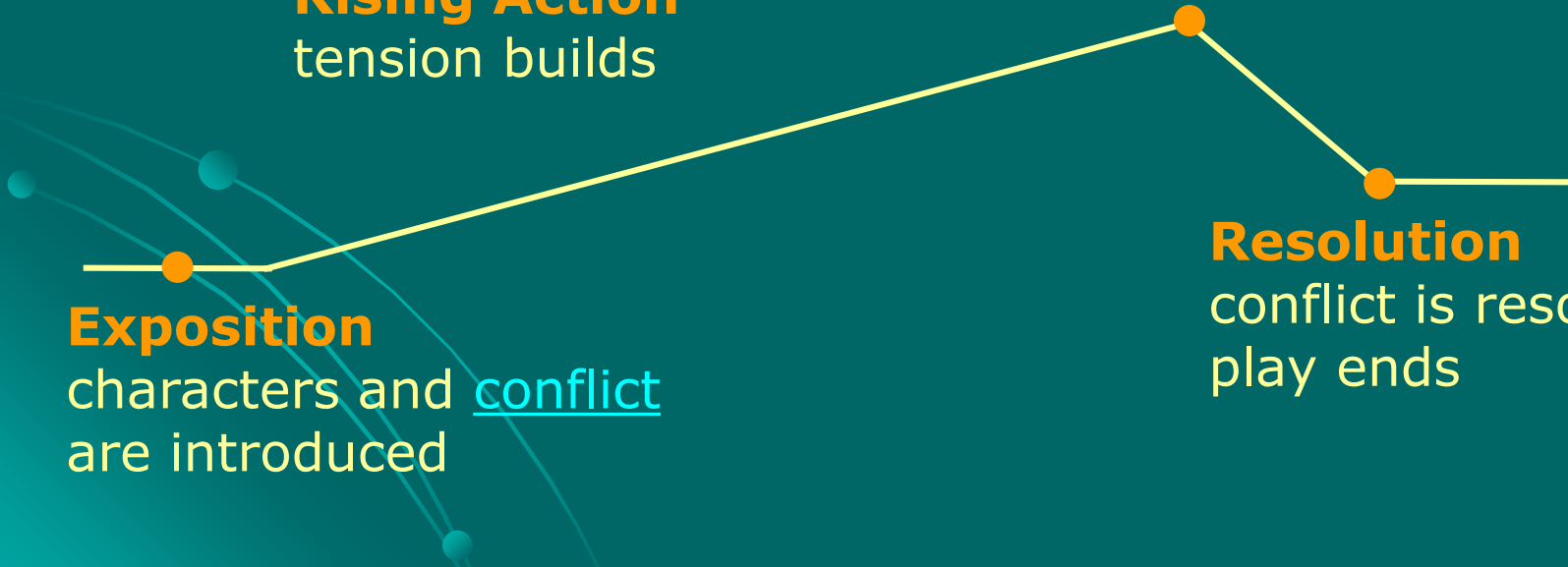
Rising Action
tension builds

Resolution

conflict is resolved;
play ends

Exposition

characters and conflict
are introduced



Types of Conflict in Drama

Conflict is a struggle or clash between opposing characters or forces. A conflict may develop . . .

- ❑ between characters who want different things or the same thing (man vs. man)
- ❑ between a character and the forces of nature (man vs. nature)
- ❑ Between a character and the laws of society (man vs. society)
- ❑ within a character who is torn between two courses of action (man vs. self, internal conflict)



Tragedy

A **tragedy** is a play that ends unhappily.

- Most classic Greek tragedies deal with serious, universal themes such as



right and wrong

justice and injustice

life and death

- Tragedies pit human limitations against the larger forces of destiny.

Tragedy

The protagonist of most classical tragedies is a **tragic hero**. This hero

- is noble and in many ways admirable
- has a **tragic flaw**, a personal failing that leads to a tragic end
- *Who, from Greek Mythology, do you think fits this description?*

pride

rebelliousness

jealousy



Comedy

A **comedy** is a play that ends happily. The story line is light and often humorous.



Performance of a Play

When you read a play, remember that it is meant to be performed for an audience.

Stage Directions

Tell the performers how to speak their lines, how to perform the action of the play, and move about in designated areas.

[Wyona is sitting on the couch. She sees Paul and jumps to her feet.]

Wyona. [Angrily.] What do you want?



Performance

- Theater artists bring the playwright's vision to life on the stage.
- The audience responds to the play and shares the experience.

Stage Directions

In the script of a play, the instructions to the performers, director, and stage crew are called **Stage directions**. Stage directions usually appear in *italic type* and in parentheses.

upstage

stage right

stage left

downstage

Performance of a Play

- **Theater artists** include
 - Actors
 - Directors
 - Lighting technicians
 - Stage crew



Setting the Stage

Stages can have many different sizes and layouts.

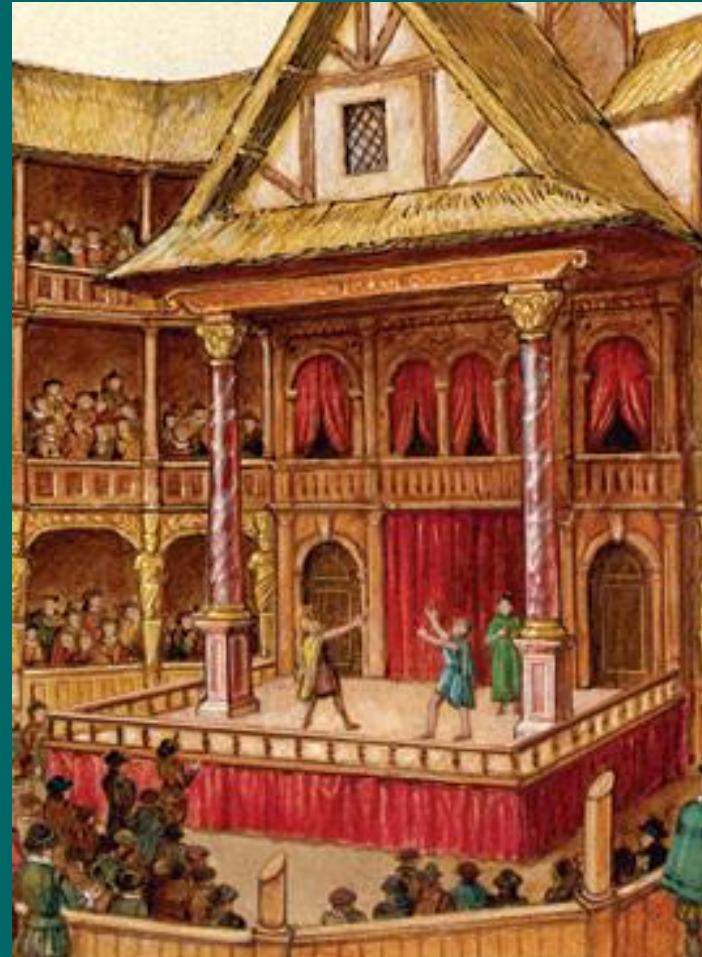
“**Thrust**” stage

- The stage extends into the viewing area.
- The audience surrounds the stage on three sides.



Setting the Stage

Stages in Shakespeare's time were thrust stages.



Setting the Stage

“In the round” stage is surrounded by an audience on all sides.



Setting the Stage

Proscenium stage

- The playing area extends behind an opening called a "proscenium arch."
- The audience sits on one side looking into the action.



Question!

- What kind of stage does St. Johns Middle School have?



Setting the Stage

Scene design transforms a bare stage into the world of the play. Scene design consists of

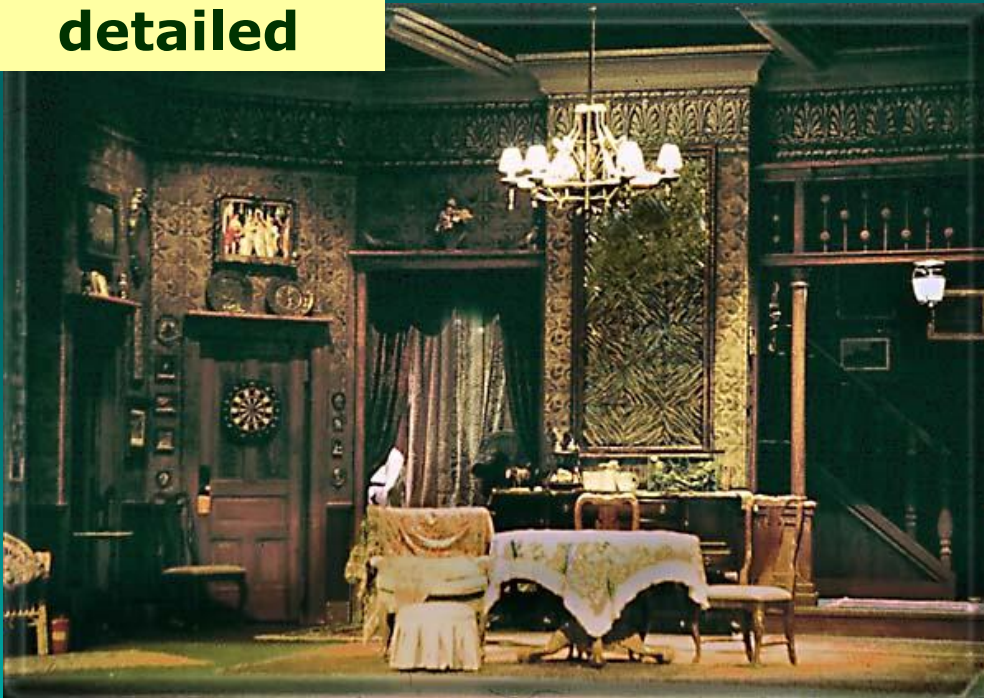
- sets
- lighting
- costumes
- props



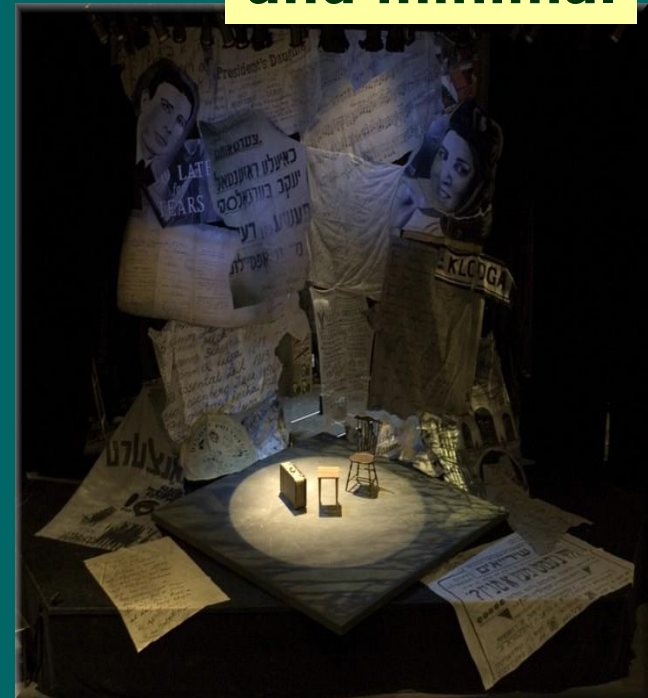
Setting the Stage

A stage's **set** might be

**realistic and
detailed**



**abstract
and minimal**



Setting the Stage

A **lighting** director skillfully uses light to change the mood and appearance of the set.



Setting the Stage

The costume director works with the director to design the actors' **costumes**.

- Like sets, costumes can be



detailed

minimal



Setting the Stage

Props (short for *properties*) are items that the characters carry or handle onstage.



- The person in charge of props must make sure that the right props are available to the actors at the right moments.

The Characters

The characters' speech may take any of the following forms.

Dialogue: conversations of characters onstage

Monologue: long speech given by one character to others

Soliloquy: speech by a character alone onstage **to** himself or herself or to the audience

Asides: remarks made to the audience or to one character; the other characters onstage do not hear an aside

The Audience

Finally, a play needs an audience to bring the story to life by:

experiencing the performance

understanding the story

responding to the characters



The End



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