

ELEMENTS OF DRAMA

DRAMA

A story that is performed for an audience – also known as a play.

PLAYWRIGHT

The writer of a drama – also
known as a dramatist

SCRIPT

The written text of a drama

DIALOGUE

The words the actors speak –
this is included in the script

STAGE DIRECTIONS

The playwright's instructions
about how to perform the
drama

ACT

Full-length dramas are
divided into shorter sections
called acts.

SCENE

Each act contains several
scenes

SETS/ SCENERY

The constructions onstage
that suggest the time and
place of the action

PROPS

Movable items (books,
newspapers, etc.) that actors
use to make their actions look
realistic

COMEDIES

Dramas that have happy endings. Contain humorous dialogue and situations

TRAGEDIES

Dramas that show the downfall
of a great person brought
down by a fault in his or her
nature.

TRAGIC HERO

Great person who is brought
down in a tragedy.

TRAGIC FLAW

Fault in his or her nature that
brings down the tragic hero in
a tragedy

MONOLOGUE

A long uninterrupted speech spoken by a character to other characters who remain silent.

SOLILOQUY

A speech a character delivers
while alone

ASIDE

A comment made by a character to the audience. Only the audience hears this even if other characters are around.