

Paper II
DRAMA
UNIT I

Origin and Development of Drama in English Literature

Drama is generally thought to have started increase between 600 and 200 BC, although some critics trace it to Egyptian religious rights of coronation.

The origin of the drama is deep-rooted in the religious predispositions of mankind. This is the case not only with English drama, but with dramas of other nations as well. The ancient Greek and Roman dramas were mostly concerned with religious ceremonials of people. It was the religious elements that resulted in the development of drama. As most of the Bible was written into Latin, common people could not understand its meanings. That's why the clergy tried to find out some new methods of teaching and expounding the teachings of Bible to the common people. For this purpose, they developed a new method, wherein the stories of the Gospel were explained through the living pictures. The performers acted out the story in a dumb show.

The oldest existing church drama was "**Quem Quarritis**" (*whom are you seeking*). This drama was called **liturgical** (ritual, ceremonial, used in the church) drama, in which the story was simply taken from the scripture (Holy Books, The Bible).

Classical Greek drama

Western drama originates in classical Greece. In Greece dramatic performances were associated with religious festivals. The Greeks produce different types of drama mainly tragedy and comedy. Famous Greek tragedians include Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides. The best writer of comedy was Aristophanes.

Classical Roman drama

The Romans inherited the drama tradition from the Greeks. Following the expansion of the Roman Republic (509–27 BC) into several Greek territories (between 270–240 BC), Rome encountered Greek drama. Roman theatre was more varied, extensive and sophisticated than that of any culture before it. The expansion of the Rome helped spread drama to many places in Europe and the Mediterranean world. Seneca is the most important Roman tragedian.

Medieval drama

The middle ages start with the fall of the Roman Empire. Most of classical learning was lost in mediaeval times. The Middle Ages were dominated by religion and the study of theological matters. The Christian doctrine and Christian values were the measure of everything. During the middle ages, drama was looked down upon as evil and a means of corruption. However faced with the need to spread the word of God to the illiterate masses, the church came up to devise some form of dramatic performance to help the teaching in teaching Christian beliefs and Biblical stories. In which the characters personify moral qualities such as charity or vice or obstructions as death or youth and in which moral lessons are taught. (From the liturgical, drama evolved to **Mystery and Miracle**. **Mystery and Miracle** plays, along with Moralities and Interludes, evolved into more elaborate forms of drama, such as was seen on the Elizabethan stages.)

The three main types of Mediaeval drama are

Mystery Plays – about bible stories

Miracle plays – about the lives of Saints and the miracle they performed

Morality plays – In which the characters personified moral qualities such as charity or wise or obstruction such as death or youth and in which moral lessons are taught.

The Renaissance:

The Renaissance is the period that followed the middle ages. It started in Italy in the 14th century and spread to other parts of Europe. The word our is the French word which means rebirth. The Renaissance period witnessed a new interest in learning and discovery of the natural world. The works of the Greek and Roman writers were rediscovered. The invention of the printing press help to make the production of books easier and cheaper hence available to more people. (Humanism: the humanist movement stressed the role of man and reason in understanding the world and rejected the pre-dominance of religious thinking.)

Renaissance drama:

During the Renaissance the works of Greek and Roman dramatics were rediscovered and imitated. Plays were no longer restricted to religious themes. This happened first in Italy and spread then to other parts of Europe

In England, drama flourished during the reign of Queen Elizabeth 1558–1603, who was a patron of literature and the arts. Theatre were built in London and people attended plays in large numbers.

The most important matters for William Shakespeare and Christopher Marlowe.

Elizabethan and Jacobean drama

One of the great flowerings of drama in England occurred in the 16th and 17th centuries. Plays with five acts with several scenes became popular.

Authors such as Christopher Marlowe, William Shakespeare, and Ben Jonson were prominent playwrights during this period.

Modern and postmodern drama

The pivotal and innovative contributions of the 19th-century Norwegian dramatist Henrik Ibsen and the 20th-century German theatre practitioner Bertolt Brecht dominate modern drama. Three act plays came into vogue. In modern drama, still further on even the three act plays was replaced by one act play.

Authors of this period drew some of their storylines from Greek mythology and Roman mythology. Other important playwrights of the modern era include Anton Chekhov, **Eugene O'Neill**, **George Bernard Shaw**, **Arthur Miller**, **Tennessee Williams**, Jean Genet, Samuel Beckett, Harold Pinter.

What is another name for drama

Poem

Story

Play

Movies

What do we call the writer of a play

Poet

Author

Playwright

Illustrator

The group of people that are playing certain roles in the play is called the –

Audience

Cast of characters

Writers

Speakers

The direction, or words, in parenthesis that shows the action or feeling that the characters are supposed to show. They may also give information about the setting. These directions are called

Plot directions

Stage directions

Actor directions

Audience direction

What do we call the part that an actor plays in a drama

Role

Prop

Dialogue

Narrator

What do we call the written text of a play

Paper

Script

Advertisement

Note

What do we call the things, or items, that a character may use in a play for example the person playing the role of snow white may have an apple which will cause her to fall into a spell when she bites it the apple is called a –

Fruit

Vegetable

Food

Prop (properties)

Drama was introduced in England from Europe

by the Romans.

The British drama began in

14th and the 15th century (Drama in England occurred in the 16th and the 17th century.)

The mystery plays dealt with the subjects

taken from the bible

The miracle plays dealt with the

lives and miracles of saints

The morality plays dealt with
Abstraction and allegories

Which play is considered the best morality play
Everyman

This is the correct order for plot in drama.

Exposition
Rising Action
(Conflict)
Climax
Falling action
and
Resolution



In Greek drama the hero is called a –

The protagonist

A foil

Confidant

None of these

The term denouement refers to – in a play

The rising action

The following action

The climax

None of these

The term – is applied to the falling action in a tragedy

Catastrophe

Catharsis

Crisis

None of these that

The term anagnorisis means

Recognition

Reversal

Both A and B

Neither A Nor B

Shakespeare introduced the element of Masque in The Tempest in –

The opening scene of the play

As an interlude

In the end of the play

In the scene where the engagement of Ferdinand and Miranda are solemnised

Oberon, the Faery Prince was a **masque** written by

Ben Jonson

Shakespeare

Marlow

Dr Johnson

In which of the following plays of Shakespeare is the element of Masque introduced?

The Tempest

Macbeth

Hamlet

Othello

Milton's Comus is a ——

Masque

Farce

Elegy

Epic

Who's comedies are popularly known as comedy of humour

Ben Jonson

Seneca

Shakespeare

Dr Johnson

The term drama is derived from the greek word –

Dran

Dram

Darn

Drame

Drama originated in ancient –

Greece

Italy

Rome

India

The last plays of Shakespeare are called-----

Romances

Monologues

Lyrics

Tragedies.

Which among the following are the romances written by Shakespeare?

Cymbeline

The Winter's Tale

Pericles

The Tempest

All of these.

What is drama?

Drama is the specific mode of fiction represented in performance: a play, opera, mime, ballet, etc performed in a theatre or on road or television.

or

Drama is an art form and is a unique tool to explore and express feeling of someone, it is performed on stage.

The word "Drama" is come from a greek verb "Dran" which means "to do".

It is a literary composition involving conflict, action crises and atmosphere designed to be acted by players or characters on stage before audience. Drama since the days of the Greek tragedy has undergone phenomenal changes both in form and in the way the story is narrated. Since drama is a performing medium unlike the poem, the novel or the short story, a drama tends to be action centred.

What is the difference between drama and play?

The most significant difference between these two entities is that drama refers to a form of written literature that is intended for performance while play refers to a theatrical performance . In simple words , a drama is to be read and a play is to be seen. But in a play, the audience get to see the story enacted.

What is interlude?

A short play that produces characters, Usually of humble rank and humour is the outstanding characteristic of this plays.

What is tragedy?

A dramatic composition of serious or sorrowful nature involving fall and death of a hero.

What are Liturgical drama?

Beginning in the early middle ages, churches staged draw dramatised version of biblical events to enliven annual celebration.

Elizabethans believed that tragedy was the story of-
A person of high post who fell from his position

Aristotle defines tragedy in Poetics as.....

Tragedy is an imitation of action that is serious, complete and of a certain magnitude...

The term revenge tragedy was first introduced by
A. H. Thorndike

In revenge tragedy the protagonists seeks revenge for
And imagined or actual injury

What is regarded as the source and inspiration of revenge tragedy
The Roman dramatist Seneca

The famous revenge tragedies are

Thomas Kyds' **The Spanish Tragedy** and Shakespeare's **Hamlet**

What is Comedy?

A dramatic composition of a light amusing theme with fun, humour often satire and happy ending is called Comedy

The classical comedy was invented by———
Aristophanes in Athens in 5th century BC

The comedy of humour was based on

The ancient physiological theory of the four humours – blood, phlegm, choler (yellow bile), and melancholy (black bile).

Ben Johnson's famous comedies are:
Every man in his humour
Every man out of his humour
Alchemist

What is Poetic Drama or Verse Drama

In poetic drama, the dialogues are written in verse, which in English is usually blank verse. However the heroic dramas of English restoration were written mostly in heroic couplets.

In English the word play or game was the standard term used to – describe drama until Shakespeare's time as its creator was a playmaker rather than a dramatic and the building was a play house rather than a theatre.

What is Mime

A Mime is a form of drama where the action of a story is told only through the movement of the body without the use of speech.

Types of drama

Tragedy: in Greek sense play that ends with the death of at least one of the main characters. In modern usage, it refers to a play that does not have a happy ending.

Comedy: in Greek sense it is a play that does not end in death. In modern usage it refers to a play that ends happily or that is humorous.

Tragic Comedy: play in which serious and comic elements are mixed.

The Three Unities:

Unity of Time- Play must take place within a twenty-four hour period of time.

Unity of Place- Play should be in one location, or in locations that could easily be reached within the unity of time.

Unity of Action- Play should have one main action and be either Comedy or Tragedy.

Forms of drama

The pre-Elizabethan drama – the Miracle Plays; The mystery plays; the morality plays; the interlude.

The tragedy

The melodrama

The tragic comedy

The comedy – the romantic comedy; the comedy of humour; the comedy of manners

The farce

The masque

The poetic play

The dramatic monologue

The problem play

The one act play

Primary Elements of a Plot

There are five main elements in a plot.

Exposition or Introduction

This is the beginning of the story, where characters and setting are established. The conflict or main problem is introduced as well.

Rising Action

Rising Action which occurs when a series of events build up to the **conflict**. The main characters are established by the time the rising action of a plot occurs, and at the same time, events begin to get complicated. It is during this part of a story that excitement, tension, or crisis is encountered.

Climax

In the climax, or the main point of the plot, there is a turning point of the story. This is meant to be the moment of highest interest and emotion, leaving the reader wondering what is going to happen next.

Falling Action

Falling Action, or the winding up of the story, occurs when events and complications begin to resolve. The result of the actions of the main characters are put forward.

Resolution

Resolution, or the conclusion, is the end of a story, which may occur with either a happy or a tragic ending.

What is the functions of drama?

Drama is said to have originated from rituals. It is an important branch of literature and is devoid of the closeness with the novel, the abstract message of fine arts, the incomplete message of music or abstruse language of poetry. It presents a story realistically through the actors to the audience. Drama is therefore used to entertain, inform and educate people.

Of all the creative artists, the dramatist is in the best position-to reflect his society and to cause social reforms. This is because his work has a unique characteristic of presenting events in a vivid, picturesque and realistic manner. This helps to stamp social conditions, realistically in the minds of the audience. Its message is therefore immediate. The rich and the poor, the young and the old, the literate and the illiterate enjoy and take in the message of drama once it is presented in the appropriate language as the actors perform the story (message) on stage.

Elements of Drama

Brief:

Drama is a composition of prose or poetry that is transformed into a performance on stage. The story progresses through interactions between its characters and ends with a message for the audience. Drama can be defined as a dramatic work that actors present on stage. A story is dramatized, which means the characters and events in the story are brought to life through a stage performance by actors who play roles of the characters in the story and act through its events, taking the story forward. In enacting the roles, actors portray the character's emotions and personalities. The story progresses through verbal and non-verbal interactions between the characters, and the presentation is suitably supplemented by audio and visual effects. Through the characters involved, the story has a message to give. It forms the central theme of the play around which the plot is built. While some consider music and visuals as separate elements, others prefer to club them under staging which can be regarded as an independent element of drama. Lighting, sound effects, costumes, makeup, gestures or body language given to characters, the stage setup, and the props used can together be considered as symbols that are elements of drama. What dictates most other dramatic elements is the setting; that is the time period and location in which the story takes place.

The elements of drama are, Plot; Character; Theme; Dialogue; Diction; Spectacle; Music/ Sound effect / Song.

Out of these, the **first two** are the most important ones according to Aristotle.

Plot

Plot refers to the action; the basic storyline of the play

. The story of the play, or the journey of the protagonist, which includes his/her conflict with an opposing force (the antagonist).

The order of events occurring in a play make its plot. Essentially, the plot is the story that the play narrates. The entertainment value of a play depends largely on the sequence of events in the story. The connection between the events and the characters in them form an integral part of the plot. What the characters do, how they interact, the course of their lives as narrated by the story, and what happens to them in the end, constitutes the plot. A struggle between two individuals, the relation between them, a struggle with self, a dilemma, or any form of conflict of one character with himself or another character in the play, goes into forming the story's plot. The story unfolds through a series of incidents that share a cause-and-effect relationship. Generally, a story begins with exposing the past or background of the main and other characters, and the point of conflict, then proceeds to giving the central theme or climax. Then come the consequences of the climax and the play ends with a conclusion.

Character:

The characters that form a part of the story are interwoven with the plot of the drama. Each character in a play has a personality of its own and a set of principles and beliefs. Actors in the play have the responsibility of bringing the characters to life. The main character in the play who the audience identifies with, is the protagonist. He/she represents the theme of the play. The character that the protagonist conflicts with, is the antagonist or villain. While some characters play an active role throughout the story, some are only meant to take the story forward and some others appear only in certain parts of the story and may or may not have a significant role in it. Sometimes, these characters are of help in making the audiences focus on the play's theme or main characters. The way in which the characters are portrayed and developed is known as characterization.

Theme:

The theme of a play refers to its central idea. It can either be clearly stated through dialog or action, or can be inferred after watching the entire performance. The theme is the philosophy that forms the base of the story or a moral lesson that the characters learn. It is the message that the play gives to the audience. For example, the theme of a play could be of how greed leads to one's destruction, or how the wrong use of authority ultimately results in the end of power. The theme of a play could be blind love or the strength of selfless love and sacrifice, or true friendship. For example, the play *Romeo and Juliet*, is based on a brutal and overpowering romantic love between Romeo and Juliet that forces them to go to extremes, finally leading them to self-destruction.

Dialogue:

The story of a play is taken forward by means of dialogs. The story is narrated to the audiences through the interaction between the play's characters, which is in the form of dialogs. The contents of the dialogs and the quality of their delivery have a major role to play in the impact that the play has on the audiences. It is through the dialogs between characters that the story can be understood. They are important in revealing the personalities of the characters. The words used, the accent, tone, pattern of speech, and even the pauses in speech, say a lot about the character and help reveal not just his personality, but also his social status, past, and family background as given by the play. Monologues and soliloquies that are speeches given to oneself or to other characters help put forward points that would have been difficult to express through dialogs. "What's in a name? That which we call a rose By any other name would smell as sweet" from *Romeo and Juliet* in which Juliet tells Romeo of the insignificance of names or "To be, or not to be", a soliloquy from *Hamlet* are some of the greatest lines in literature.

Diction:

The language used by the playwright, including the style, dialect, rhythm and the actual words used by the characters. The word choices made by the playwright and the enunciation of the actors delivering the lines

Spectacle:

This refers to the visual elements of a play. Everything the audience sees, including scenery, costumes, makeup, dancing, pantomime and swordplay. Spectacle is everything that the audience sees as they watch the play.

Music/Rhythm:

This element includes the use of sounds and rhythm in dialogs as well as music compositions that are used in the plays. The background score, the songs, and the sound effects used should complement the situation and the characters in it. The right kind of sound effects or music, if placed at the right points in the story, act as a great supplement to the high and low points in the play. The music and the lyrics should go well with the play's theme. If the scenes are accompanied by pieces of music, they become more effective on the audiences.

Dramatic devices

Irony- refers to a statement that means just opposite of what is really expressed in words. This irony may either be verbal or in action. A dramatic irony is a pungent satire, having a double meaning, one meaning for the speaker or the actor and the other for the audience.

Soliloquy – A soliloquy is the characters speaking his thoughts out loud for the audience to hear. The lines can be directed either to the audience or, more often, the character is just speaking to him self. In soliloquy the actor things aloud that is he expresses his inner feelings and thoughts so loudly that the audience can hear him, but other actors present on the stage are believed not to hear him.

Monologue: A monologue may be interpreted as one character speaking to another without getting or expecting a response. This is because monologue literally means, half of a dialogue -Mono = one, Dia=Two.

Aside – An aside is a traditional dramatic device. Here, a character conveys important information to the audience. By convention it is assumed that the characters speech is Unheard to the other characters present on stage. It may be addressed to the audience directly or as the present and unspoken thought. An aside is usually a brief comment, rather than a speech such as a monologue or soliloquy.

Disguise: A disguise can be anything which conceals or changes a person's physical appearance including a wig, glasses, make up, costume or other ways. Camouflage is one type of disguise for people, animals and objects. Hats, classes, change in hairstyle or wigs plastic surgery and make up are also used. (Disguises are used by criminals such as bank robbers and by spice seeking to avoid identification. A well-known person or celebrity may choose to go incognito in order to avoid unwelcome press attention. In comic books and films disguises are used by super heroes and in science fiction by aliens. Dressing up in costume is the Halloween tradition.)

Paradox

is a device used to attract the reader's attention. It is a statement which seems contradictory or absurd, but well-founded and true at the same time.

Foreshadow

Foreshadow a hint or warning of things to come, making specific events in the plot seem more probable as they unfold.

Nemesis

Nemesis is applied to the justice which comes about when an evil act brings about its own punishment and poetic justice prevails.

Chorus: The chorus in greek drama is a group of actors who speak or sing together, commenting on the action. The chorus explains the past and future events in the play.

In Elizabethan drama the chorus consisted of one actor who decides the prologue and epilogue to a play and sometimes comments on the action for example as in Dr Faustus.

Tragic flaw/Hamartia : a weakness or limitation of character, resulting in the fall of a tragic hero.

(Hamartia is an ancient Greek theatre term meaning the error, frailty, mistaken judgment or misstep through which the fortunes of the hero of a tragedy are reversed. **Hamartia must express itself through a definite action, or, failure to perform a definite action.** Hamartia can result from bad judgment, a bad character, ignorance, inherited weakness, or accident. This error does not always result from an error in character.)

Tragic hero: a character of high position, who because of a tragic flaw and fate, suffers a fall from glory into suffering.

(Tragedy is a waste of unrealized potential. Hamlet has high individual potential which is wasted by an individual weakness which greatly affects others. If Hamlet's potential had been realized, he would have been a hero. Unrealized potential is the difference between a successful versus an unsuccessful quest.)

Masque:

An elaborate form of court entertainment that combined poetic drama, music, song, dance, splendid costume and stage spectacle was called **Masque**

Masque was a form of dramatic writing and production featuring poetry, music, and dance, popular in 17th-century England, especially in court circles. ... Actors spoke, sang, and danced on allegorical or mythological subjects in the disguising, which was known from the early 15th century in Italy.

Elizabethan Masques

Masques first became popular at the court of King Henry VIII, the father of Queen Elizabeth. And this form of Renaissance Upper class entertainment continued into the Elizabethan era.

Leading Elizabethan Poets and Dramatists who were employed to write the words and verses of the masques included Sir Edmund Spenser, Francis Beaumont, John Fletcher (1579 - 1625), Thomas Middleton (1580 - 1627) and, in later times, Ben Jonson.

The most famous and important of all the Elizabethan dramatists was none other than William Shakespeare. The fantastic themes of the masques were included in many of the plays of William Shakespeare such **The Tempest**, *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Much Ado about Nothing*.

The Tempest as Masque

The Masque in *The Tempest* has been useful to Shakespeare in many ways. It may have initially been meant only to represent the betrothal of Ferdinand and Miranda, but it has ended up adding many different aspects to the play. It is a section of *The Tempest* which well rounds out the play as a whole.

In Shakespeare's time masques were written for performance before a king's or nobles's court; thus, they were given the name Court Masques. They provide an allegorical setting to celebrate feast days, harvests, betrothals and marriages. Although there is no evidence, it is believed that the masque in *The Tempest* was written especially for a performance of the play at the marriage celebration of King James' daughter. Within the play itself, the masque is written in celebration of the betrothal and future marriage of Ferdinand and Miranda, and it provides an allegorical setting for the wedding.

Specifically, the masque in *The Tempest* occurs in Act IV, scene I. The goddesses and reapers are conjured up by Prospero to shower eternal spring on the engaged couple.

Shakespeare has several different uses for the masque in *The Tempest*. He has made it a bridge from magic to reality; a celebration of Ferdinand's and Miranda's engagement, and of King James' daughter. It has provided an operatic, musical quality to the play, and a fairytale quality as well. The masque produces a necessary section of the play, and although *The Tempest* has been performed without the masque it is an addition which almost perfectly rounds out Shakespeare's play.

The Tempest is a Romantic Comedy/the last Play

The Tempest is a part of a group of four plays (including *Cymbeline*, *The Winter's Tale*, and *Pericles*) that critics refer to as the Romances. These plays were written at the end of Shakespeare's career and share a few things in common. For example, Elements of magic and the fantastic, A long, wandering journey and Obsession with the concept of loss and recovery.

What type of drama is *Dr Faustus*

Dr Faustus is a morality play.

It was written by Christopher Marlowe and performed between 1588 and 1593, is a strong example of the morality play genre. Morality plays grew out of the religious mystery plays of the Middle Ages.

The Alchemist is a comedy by English playwright Ben Jonson.

First performed in 1610 by the King's Men, it is generally considered Jonson's best and most characteristic comedy; Samuel Taylor Coleridge considered it had one of the three most perfect plots in literature. The play's clever fulfilment of the classical unities and vivid depiction of human folly have made it one of the few Renaissance plays

John Webster was one of the best, and most notorious, of Shakespeare's contemporaries famous playwright of the English Renaissance.

What genre is *The Duchess of Malfi*?

The Duchess of Malfi is a Revenge tragedy.

The Duchess of Malfi, five-act tragedy by English dramatist John Webster, performed 1613/14 and published in 1623. Written after William Shakespeare had completed his final play, *The Duchess of Malfi* is regarded as the last great Elizabethan tragedy.

What is a Restoration comedy?

Restoration comedy a comic vision that ridiculed what it most admired.

What genre is *The Way of the World*?

The Way of the World is a Restoration comedy.

The play *The Way of the World* by William Congreve represents the real picture of contemporary society of his time. It is a fine flower of Restoration literature (comedy of manners). The entire play is set in London and this urban setting keeps especial importance.

What is a Revenge Tragedy?

A Revenge Play can be defined as drama in which the protagonist seeks revenge for the bloody actions of the antagonist and the revelation of the murder or crime comes to the protagonist through superficial appearances such as ghosts.

Is *Hamlet* a revenge tragedy?

William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* is considered a revenge tragedy, where Prince Hamlet's motives are to get revenge on King Claudius for assassinating his father.

What is a romantic comedy in Shakespeare?

A romantic comedy is a type of play which consists of love affair between the characters mainly protagonist, difficulties that arise due to the affairs, the struggle of the protagonist or other major characters to overcome these difficulties and the ending that is generally happy to everyone.

Dramatic terms

Playwright: the writer of the play /dramatist

Stage direction: instruction written in the prescription of a play, describing the setting and indicating actions and movements of the actors.

Protagonist: the main character of the play

Antagonist: the character opposing the main character.

Dramatic Personae: people of drama in London; a list of the characters in the play, usually found on the first page of the script.

Blank verse: an rhymed iambic pentameter verse. It is the pre-eminent dramatic verse English – as in the place of Christopher Marlowe and William Shakespeare.

Comic relief: humorous episodes in a play date is mainly tragic.

Surprise – to arouse curiosity.

Suspense – maintain the interest of the audience.

The length – the length of the play has to be limited by the condition of the stage. It may be acted on the stage at the most within three hours.

Epilogue – in some places, epilogue appears at the end of the play for example the Tempest, as you like it

Prologue – in the beginning of the play