

# ELEMENTS OF DRAMA



# WHAT IS DRAMA?

- ◉ meant to be performed for an audience
- ◉ a play
- ◉ Some are presented live on stage
- ◉ Some are recorded on film
- ◉ The author of a drama is called a **playwright**.

# DRAMA IS SIMILAR TO FICTION

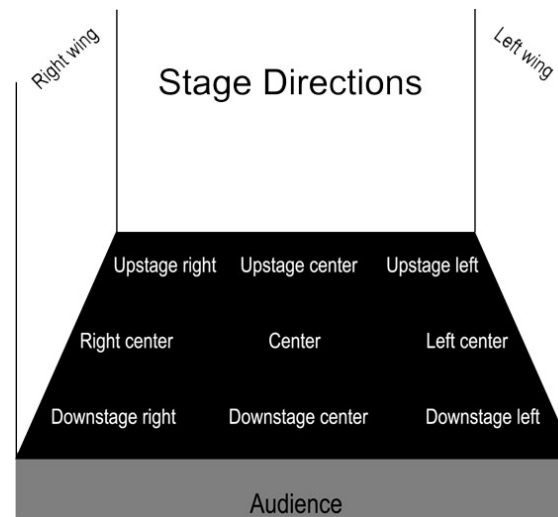
- ◉ Characters - made-up people who interact in a particular setting
- ◉ Setting - the environment
- ◉ Conflict - the struggle
- ◉ Plot - series of actions
- ◉ Climax - the highest point of tension
- ◉ Resolution - the action winds down

# ELEMENTS OF DRAMA

- ◉ 1. Stage Directions
- ◉ 2. Dialogue
- ◉ 3. Set/Scenery
- ◉ 4. Props
- ◉ 5. Acts and Scenes

# 1. STAGE DIRECTIONS

- ◉ are the playwright's instructions about how to perform the drama.
- ◉ Tell how actors should speak and move
- ◉ Give details about lighting, sound effects and costumes



# STAGE DIRECTIONS ABBREVIATIONS

- ⦿ **C** - center stage
- ⦿ **D** - downstage (nearest to audience)
- ⦿ **U** - upstage (farthest from audience)
- ⦿ **L** - stage left (audience's right)
- ⦿ **R** - stage right (audience's left)

## 2. DIALOGUE

- ◉ Conversation between or among characters



### 3. SET/SCENERY

- Used to describe the construction onstage that suggests the time and place of the action.





## 4. PROPS

- ◉ Small movable items that actors use to make their actions look realistic
- ◉ Examples - a pen, a doctor's clipboard, a notebook, a telephone, a ball, a sofa, etc.
- ◉ What props might you include in a scene set in a classroom?

## 5. ACTS AND SCENES

- ◉ The basic units of action in a drama
- ◉ A full-length drama may consist of several acts.

# TWO BASIC CATEGORIES OF DRAMA

- ◉ 1. Comedy
- ◉ 2. Tragedy



# 1. COMEDY

- ◉ Features ordinary people in funny or ridiculous situations
- ◉ Usually has a happy ending
- ◉ Meant to entertain, but also may point out humor weaknesses and the faults of society

## 2. TRAGEDY

- ◉ Shows the downfall of the main character, known as the **tragic hero**
- ◉ The tragic hero may be an admirable person with a fault that brings about his or her destruction
- ◉ The hero may be an ordinary person destroyed by an evil force of society

# OTHER COMMON TYPES OF DRAMAS

- ◉ 1. screenplays
- ◉ 2. teleplays
- ◉ 3. radio plays

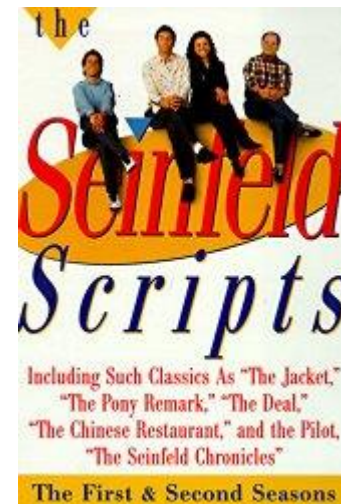
# SCREENPLAYS

- ◉ Scripts for films
- ◉ Include camera angles and can allow for more scene changes than a stage play



# TELEPLAYS

- ◉ Scripts written for television
- ◉ They contain elements similar to a screenplay





# RADIO PLAYS

- ◉ Written to be performed as radio broadcasts
- ◉ Include sound effects and do not require a set

