



ENGLISH LANGUAGE

CLASS: JSS 1

TOPIC: DRAMA: TYPES AND FEATURES



PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES

By end of the lesson, you should be able to;

1. Read and dramatize a text;
2. Identify the themes and features of drama; and
3. Identify essential props/costumes in a play.

DRAMA

It is a piece of writing that tells a story and is performed on a stage. Drama is a genre of literature which is meant to be acted on stage, television, or radio.



The term drama is from the Greek word which means 'action'.

Drama is the only genre of literature that is associated with stage performance. Drama sometimes involves songs or music.

TYPES OF DRAMA

Comedy: This is a type of drama meant to amuse the audience.

A comedy is always a funny and unserious type of drama. It is aimed at making the audience laugh. A comedy always has a happy ending. Example is Kobina Sekyi's *The Blinkards*.

Tragedy: It is the opposite of comedy. It is a very serious type of drama that involves serious events like hatred, fate, bloodshed, death, pins and pains and so on. Example is Women of Owu by Femi Osofisan.

THEMES IN DRAMA

A theme can be defined as the central idea of a play or a drama text. It is the main idea or the chief message of the play or drama. For instance, the main idea in Wole Soyinka's *The Lion and Jewel* is Eurocentrism or the place of modernization in the African socio-cultural milieu.

THEMES IN DRAMA INVOLVES

Love

Romance

Vengeance

Culture

Religion

Morals and so on

FEATURES OF DRAMA

1. Theatre: This is the physical structure raised for the purpose of dramatic performances. Music and other performances can also be done in the theatre. The theatre has a space for the audience to sit and a stage for the actors and actresses to perform. There is also a back stage where the actors and actresses put on their costumes.



2. **Stage:** The stage is found in the theatre. It is space meant for the actors and actresses to stand when they perform. The stage is an elevated part of the theatre for the easy view of the audience. Behind stage is the theatre back stage where lighting, costumes, sound effects etc. are coordinated.



3. Actors and Actresses: are personnel's or people that acting the play. The males are called actors while the females are called actresses.



4. Audience: This is a group of people that watch the play when it is going on. The audience watch the actors and actresses act their parts on stage. The audience also have their space to sit in the theatre.



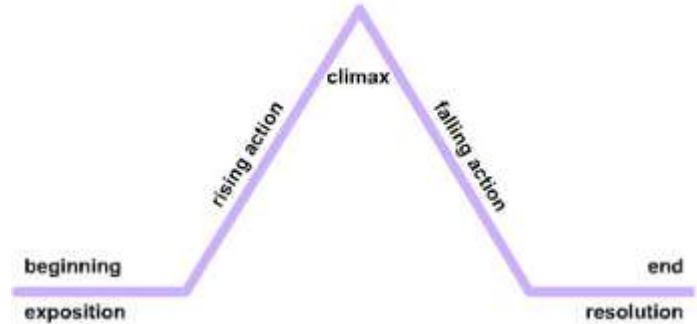
5. Costumes/Props: This is a set of clothes worn by actors and to make them look like something or somebody while props are additional materials to aid the costumes.



6. Language: Language is a means of communication in drama. It also involves paralinguistic cues like nodding, humming, hissing and so on. Like poetry, some writers use language that is simple while some use difficult words. For example, Wole Soyinka's language is always difficult while Kobina Sekyi's is simple.



7. Plot: This is the sequential arrangement of events in the play. It is the basic story in the play and it is told by means of dialogue.



8. Dialogue/Monologue: Dialogue is the conversation between two or more character in the play while Monologue is situation where a character talk.



9. Soliloquy: This is a long, usually serious speech that a character in a play makes to an audience and reveal the character's thought.



10. Act and Scenes: A play or drama is organized into act and Scenes. Acts refer to the main part into which a play is divided such as Act 1, Act 2, Act 3 and so on, while the scene is a fragment of action that happen in one place in a play. We find a scene in an act for instance Act 1 scene 1, Act 1 scene two and so on.



EVALUATION

1. Differentiate between comedy and tragedy.
2. Write down the costumes for each of the following characters;
 - i. Doctor
 - ii. A pauper

iii. An old woman

iv. A school boy

v. A pastor.



**THANKS FOR
WATCHING!!!**

