

Modern Drama

I. Definition – drama is literature that is meant to be performed.

A. Elements of Drama

1. Actors – characters

a. Cast – listing of characters for a play

2. Script – the text of the play with dialogue for characters and stage directions

a. Adaptation - The result when an author takes a literary work and changes it, usually into another form (ex. novel to play form).

b. Playwright - the author of the play.

c. Acts – units of action; divisions within a play

d. Scenes - smaller divisions; change of scenery

e. Aside – lines spoken by a character but only meant to be heard by the audience and not by other characters

f. Director – The person charged with mapping the actions of the characters, movements, effects, as well as casting, and seeing to the overall performance.

g. Stage Directions – the material written in brackets [] in the script and provides information for the acting

- Center Stage – exact middle of the acting area
- Downstage – area closest to the audience
- Upstage – area farthest away from the audience.
- Stage Left/Stage Right – the actor's left or right as he/she faces the audience.

3. Theater – place for performance

- a. Stage Set – where the action of the play takes place
- b. Wings – sides of the stage not seen by the audience
- c. Backstage – behind the set not seen by the audience
- d. Apron – area in front of the stage curtain
- e. House – the seating area of the theater
- f. Props – small movable items used for staging
- g. Stage hands – the people who move furniture; change scenery