**Drama Terms / Concepts**

1. **Plot** 
   * **Plot**

-Sequence of events in a literary work.

* + **Acts / Scenes**
    - **Act:** main division of drama
      * 5 Acts
        + Act 1 – Exposition
        + Act 2 – Rising Action
        + Act 3 – Climax
        + Act 4 – Falling Action
        + Act 5 – Denouement, Catastrophe
    - **Scene**: a small unit of a play in which there is no shift in location or time
  + **Conflict**
    - A struggle between opposing forces in a story or play, usually resolved by the end of the work. The conflict may occur within a character as well as between characters (**internal conflict**, **external conflict**)
  + **Suspense**
* Feeling of curiosity or uncertainty about the outcome of events in a literary work. Created by raising questions in the reader's mind.
  + **Tragedy / Comedy / History**
    - **Comedy**  
      -A type of drama in which the characters experience reversals of fortune, usually for the better.

-In comedy, things work out happily in the end.

* + - **Tragedy**

-A type of drama in which the characters experience reversals of fortune, usually for the worse.

-In tragedy, catastrophe and suffering await many of the characters, especially the hero.

* + - **History**

-A play representing events drawn wholly or partly from recorded history.

1. **Characters**
   * **Protagonist / antagonist**
     + **Antagonist**: A character or force against which another character struggles.
     + **Protagonist**: the main character in a literary work.
   * **Tragic hero** 
     + A privileged, exalted character of high repute, who, by virtue of a *tragic flaw* and *fate*, suffers a fall from glory into suffering.

In order to be a tragic hero, he/she typically must meet the following criteria:

-he/she must be a person of high stature

-he/she must basically be a good person -- this helps the reader see him/her as a worthwhile person

-he/she frequently makes serious errors in judgment

-he/she is responsible for the deed which began his/her downfall

-the audience must both pity and fear him/her (known as catharsis)

-usually he/she recognizes his/her mistakes

-he/she must die

* + **Tragic flaw**
    - A weakness or limitation of character, resulting in the fall of the tragic hero.
  + **Foil**
    - A character who contrasts and parallels the main character in a play or story.
  + **Hubris**
* Arrogant pride or over-confidence.

1. **Setting** 
   * **Atmosphere**
     + The mood that is created by a literary work, usually through setting.
   * **Imagery**
     + Words or phrases that appeal to the five senses.
   * **Pathetic fallacy**:
     + The attribution of human emotions or characteristics to inanimate objects or to nature; for example, *angry clouds; a cruel wind.*
     + Helps create the mood in a story
     + Not to be confused with personification which is broader – personification gives human attributes to abstract ideas, animate objects of nature or inanimate non-natural objects.
       - Pathetic fallacy: the somber clouds darkened our moods
       - Personification: the clouds danced

1. **Theme**
   * A central idea or insight of a work of literature
   * The author's message
2. **Dramatic / Literary Devices**
   * **Soliloquy**
     + A speech in a play that is meant to be heard by the audience but not by other characters on the stage. If there are no other characters present, the soliloquy represents the character thinking aloud.
   * **Asid**e

* A character's remark, either to the audience or to another character, that others on stage are not supposed to hear
* **Allusion**:
* A reference to a literary or historical person or event to explain a present situation. Shakespeare uses Biblical, mythological, historical, and social allusions.
  + **Dramatic irony**
    - The audience is privy to information that the characters are ignorant to.
  + **Foreshadowing**
    - Hints of what is to come in the action of a play or a story.
  + **Comic relief**
    - A scene inserted into the middle of a play to break the dramatic tension or the previous scene. This allows for immediate creation of another tense scene.
  + **Figurative language** (metaphor, simile, personification, allusion, etc.)
    - A form of language use in which writers and speakers convey something other than the literal meaning of their words.
  + **Blank verse / Iambic pentameter**
    - **Blank Verse**: unrhymed iambic pentameter.  Blank verse is the meter of most of Shakespeare’s plays
    - **Iambic Pentameter**: The most common verse line in English poetry. It consists of five verse feet, with each foot an iamb--that is, an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable.
      * An iambic foot is an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable. The rhythm can be written as: da DUM

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**Keep these terms is a safe place!**