

CHAPTER I

WHAT IS DRAMA?

A. Definition of Drama

Drama is an activity that takes the shape of illustrative works or life portrayals performed by two or more persons with conversation or prologue, and it is typically performed in front of a large audience. Drama is a literary work that effectively visualizes movement, posture, and dance. Drama also offers examples of real-life living. Society uses drama as a kind of entertainment. In addition, as the stories in plays are ones that will happen in the future or even now, they may be utilized as a teaching tool for life exploration. theatrical enthusiasts will also learn more about the theatrical arts and hone their artistic abilities. Below are several definitions of drama according to experts, as follows:

1) Balthazar Vallhagen

Drama is an artistic medium that uses movement to tell a story about human nature and nature itself.

2) Anne Civardi

A written plot is communicated using movement and



language in a drama.

3) Ferdinand Brunetierre

Drama is a literary work that is performed through movement or action, and the audience is drawn in by the performance's intriguing plot.

4) Moultan

A life narrative portrayed directly in motion is called a drama.

5) Soediro Satoto

Drama is life shown in motion.

6) Atar Semi

Drama is a staged narrative or simulation of human action.

7) Budianta

Drama is a type of literature that is performed orally and features character or character-to-character conversation.

8) Kraus

Drama is a type of creative representation that originated with Greek worship songs and dances. It involves on-stage dramatic conversation, conflict, and resolution.

9) Sudjiman

Drama is a literary form that uses speech and action to portray the twists and turns of life.

10) W.s. Renda



Drama, or play, is an artistic form in which spoken words and bodily gestures are used to convey a subject's thoughts or emotions.

11) Kasim Ahmad

The word "drame" (from the Greek draomai) implies "to act, move, or act." He views theater as having a wider significance than drama. Drama is a kind of artistic expression in which a story is told via behavior and conversation in a performance.

12) Rahmanto

Drama is defined as a type of literary work that tells stories via character conversation that is presented on stage. The play is performed in a way that highlights the unity of action, location, and time while also expressing moral principles.

13) Matrix Media Literata Team

Drama is described as a type of storytelling that uses acting and staged behavior to portray human existence and the natural world.

B. History of Drama

Etymology tells us that the word "drame" is derived from the Greek word "draomai," which meaning activity, doing, doing, and performing.



Many historical sources support the notion that Greek play belongs in the category of classical drama. In Greece, theatrical performances originated around 2,300 years ago.

Tragedies depicting the struggle of humanity to worship their gods were often the stories portrayed on stage throughout the Greek era. This kind of drama typically has a prologue that lasts for about an hour in total. The choir-based interludes that occur in between the stories are another feature.

Then, theater started to catch on in Rome. Indeed, Greek drama is adapted into Roman drama. The plot and the stage design are nearly identical to Greek tragedy. This is due to the fact that creative endeavors moved from Greece to Rome around 200 BC. According to Brockett's (1964) comments, Roman play was presented for the first time in Rome about 240 BC.

Following that, there was a continuation of medieval drama in Europe during the 1400s–1500s, a period marked by strong Catholic influence, as evidenced by the singing in drama performances, which was performed in the guise of Christian holidays by church choirs or monks.

At the close of the 1800s, modern drama emerged as the forerunner of realism drama. A drama genre known as realism uses speech and props to depict real-life situations. But as time went on, modern drama began to take more creative turns. In actuality, directors, artists, and



theater enthusiasts gave birth to several new styles at the start of the 20th century.

C. The Function of Drama

There are several functions of drama as follows:

1) Drama as a means of ceremony

Drama was originally used as a way to celebrate the god Apollo and give rites to the god Dionysos. An audience is not necessary when using drama as a ceremonial tool since the audience is made up of the participants in the event.

2) Drama as a medium of expression

Drama mostly focuses on speech and actions. Dramatic actors will use their words and body language to display their art.

3) Drama as a medium of entertainment

In the hopes of entertaining the audience, the drama is adequately prepared before the presentation.

4) Drama as an educational medium

Drama is a collaborative art form that cannot be accomplished alone. People may absorb life's good and bad values more easily from a show than from reading stories alone.



D. The Purpose of Drama

Drama serves a number of functions, including the following:

- 1) As a source of amusement for individuals from diverse backgrounds.
- 2) Learn about the performing arts.
- 3) As a means of cultivating artistic abilities.

E. Significant of Drama

Drama is highly beneficial in daily life. The drama's important points are as follows:

- 1) Has the potential to boost a person's social value and confidence.
- 2) Offers the chance to express creativity in theater.
- 3) Has good emotional self-control.
- 4) Is able to appreciate the viewpoints of others more.
- 5) Drama is a useful and enjoyable teaching technique in the field of education.

F. The Characteristic of Drama

G. Drama has the following qualities, to name a few:

- 1) Drama is contemporary literature written as a screenplay intended to be read aloud.
- 2) Prose or poetry can be used in drama scripts.



- 3) Author-composed dialogue including fully realized characters is what makes up drama.
- 4) The dialogue between the characters reflects the author's beliefs and opinions.
- 5) A crucial component of theater is conflict. Characters in the storyline, a crucial component of a drama screenplay, drive conflict.
- 6) A script is seen to be a poor drama if it lacks conflict.
- 7) A drama's language style is also significant since it conveys the historical context of the period and society it portrays, as well as the sociocultural makeup of the society the playwright has chosen to represent.

H. The Kinds of Drama

Below are the following Kinds of drama:

1) Tragedy

Tragic dramas depict the tale of a person's battle against fate, which typically results in misery or, at the very least, in death. It connects serious deeds or ideas to attention-grabbing human attractiveness. It is likewise difficult to go back after passing through a catastrophe that leaves humanity with an unsolved issue, but it is also feasible to find a suitable answer. Fear and poverty are fundamental feelings that flow toward the primary offender. A tragic hero is a figure in tragedy who undergoes a



catastrophic event as fate. Take Oedipus Rex, for instance. The Sophocles play narrates the tale of a man who murders his own biological father and then weds her.

2) Comedy

A comedy drama is a kind of drama where the plot is made humorous to make the audience laugh. Dramas of this type are fun to watch, include witty, caustic language, and typically have happy endings. Comedy may be expressed in a straightforward or even intricate way. Comedies aren't they? Comedies need to be able to expose their audience to the more profound realities of daily life; else, they are merely hollow jokes. For instance, William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream narrates the tale of a woman named Hermia and her lover Lysander, whose love is thwarted by Egeus, Hermia's father.

3) Tragicomedy

A drama that combines aspects of humor and tragedy is called a tragicomedy. Even while tragicomedies sometimes have tragic endings, they often have significant comedic components. Comedy and tragedy, according to Esslin, are two distinct genres that cannot be mixed. But as time passes, sadness and humor blend together in a similar way to how tears and laughter do. Tragicomedy, in Satoto's definition, is a drama in which comedic incidents prevent the sad meaning from occurring, leading to a



happy ending. Tragicomedy blends laughter and melancholy in a straightforward and honest way. Typically, this kind of play shows laughter and happiness at the portion when a terrible occurrence follows a happy one, or vice versa. Thus, there are two outcomes possible: a joyful conclusion or a sad one. For instance, in William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, the narrative revolves around Viola, a young lady who recently lost her twin brother Sebastian in a maritime accident. Everybody believed their brother was gone.

4) Melodrama

Drama with a lot of emotion and intensity is called melodrama. Themes like love, fate, and struggle are frequently brought up in this kind of play. Melodrama, in Waluyo's opinion, is an extremely emotive play with moving characters and a heartfelt plot. It's challenging to determine whether melodrama is a good tragic drama. This is due to the fact that melodrama takes advantage of the audience's emotions and presents them with melodic music, which makes people feel too sorry for them and fails to demonstrate the cause-and-effect link. There isn't much tragedy in melodrama.

5) Historical Drama

Historical dramas are historical fiction and romance, adventure films, and swashbucklers that are typically set in the past and utilized in cinema and television contexts. Take Buster



Keaton's and The Birth of a Nation, for instance.

6) Musical Drama

A musical drama is created by the combination of dance, music, behavior, and choreography to tell a story and package it with choreography. The harmony of songs and dancing moves is another way to judge a performer's quality, in addition to comprehending the character from the words they speak. Because the background of the performance consists of a fusion of dance moves, music, and stage sets, it is known as a musical drama. For example, "Les Misérables" by Claude-Michel Schönberg and Alain Boublil tells the story of Jean Valjean, a man who has to face both the highs and lows of life. This movie is regarded as one of the greatest musicals due of its heartfelt and exquisite acting, singing, and performances.

7) Absurd Drama

Drama that employs abstract effects is known as absurd drama. It is a kind of intriguing art performance that combines conversation, face arts, ballet, acrobatics, magic, and music with other aspects. Take, for example, the famous absurdist drama Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett, which has two characters having a nonsensical discussion.

D. Father of Drama

1) William Shakespeare



William Shakespeare transformed and advanced the craft of theater writing, earning him the title "Father of English Drama." Shakespeare created a style of dramatic narrative that other writers adopted. His introduction of blank verse, theatrical techniques like asides and soliloquies, multi-layered storylines, and characterisation are only a few of his outstanding inventions. Shakespeare also promoted comedy, tragedy, and historical writing as separate genres with own traditions. He became the greatest writer in history because to his unending inventiveness and fluency in English. Shakespeare's remarkable contributions created a lasting impression and solidified his status as the first English playwright.

It is probable that he went to the esteemed King Edward VI School located in Stratford. Shakespeare wed Anne Hathaway in the latter part of the 1580s and established a family in Stratford. But he moved away from his family and started a prosperous career in London in the early 1590s. He brilliantly brought to life some of the most famous characters in English literature, showcasing his unmatched talent for creating intricate, multi-layered narratives. Shakespeare, more than any other playwright, masterfully and compassionately addressed the most profound nuances of human emotions, relationships, morals, and psychology. Additionally, he transformed playwriting by utilizing



avant-garde literary devices including additions, soliloquies, and blank verse. Shakespeare's vast body of work, which includes 38 well-known plays, changed English theater. In Renaissance English play, he was the first to define the norms of genres including tragedy, comedy, and history. Shakespeare's plays exhibit an unmatched comprehension of human nature, from intricate storylines to richly nuanced characters. Through his works, he addresses a wide range of topics covering all emotional spectrums. His plays raise theater to the level of an art form capable of creating great poetry and demonstrate a profound insight of human nature. Shakespeare's plays brought new words and terminology to the English language, which greatly enhanced it as well. The remarkable way in which the blank verse form employed Shakespeare led to its being synonymous with theatrical drama.

The popularity of character types like the tragic hero, dramatic drama, and the playwright's function are only a few of the characteristics of theater that are contemporary or derived from it. Shakespeare was therefore a pioneer of English theater and drama, and his works served as a kind of blueprint for future English playwrights to follow and expand upon. Shakespeare's intriguing writings have had a significant impact on the development of Western play and literature. His creative model



was adopted by other writers in later decades, solidifying Shakespeare's status as the indisputable "Father of English Drama." Here are some works by William Shakespeare, as follows:

No.	Title	Description
1	Hamlet	The play explores themes of revenge, madness, and moral ambiguity, making it one of Shakespeare's most complex and psychologically probing works.
2	Romeo and Juliet	Their love defies societal norms and ultimately leads to a series of tragic events.
3	Macbeth	"Macbeth" is a dark tragedy that delves into the consequences of unchecked ambition. It follows the journey of Macbeth, a Scottish general, as he murders his way to the throne, haunted by guilt and supernatural forces.
4	Othello	"Othello" explores the destructive power of jealousy and manipulation. It tells the story of Othello, a Moorish general, whose life unravels due to



		the machinations of his ensign, Iago, and his own insecurities.
5	Julius Caesar	This historical tragedy portrays the conspiracy against Julius Caesar, a Roman political leader, and its aftermath. It examines themes of political ambition, loyalty, and the consequences of power.
6	The Tempest	"The Tempest" is a comedy that explores themes of power, forgiveness, and the human capacity for transformation. It follows Prospero, a sorcerer, and his plan to reconcile with his enemies while stranded on a remote island.
8	King Lear	King Lear, who feels old, getting tired of managing his government, decides to divide his territory between his three daughters
9	Twelfth Night	This comedy is filled with romantic entanglements, mistaken identities, and humorous subplots. It explores themes of love, disguise, and self-



		discovery.
10	Much Ado About Nothing	"Much Ado About Nothing" is a witty comedy that revolves around the misunderstandings and verbal sparring between the characters, Beatrice and Benedick, while exploring themes of love and deception.
11	The Merchant of Venice	A play that combines elements of comedy and drama, "The Merchant of Venice" deals with issues of prejudice, justice, and mercy, particularly in the context of a bond involving a pound of flesh.
12	As You Like It	"As You Like It" is a pastoral comedy set in the Forest of Arden. It explores themes of love, identity, and the transformative power of nature.
13	Richard III	A historical play that traces the rise and fall of Richard III, a power-hungry king who stops at nothing to secure his throne.
14	The Taming of	This comedy focuses on the



	the Shrew	courtship of Katherine, a strong-willed woman, and Petruchio, who attempts to "tame" her through unconventional means. It explores themes of gender roles and societal expectations.
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2) Henrik Ibsen

Henrik Ibsen also established the basis of dramatic structure and norms via his realistic and naturalistic works, even if Shakespeare did. By creating plays that addressed contentious subjects like women's rights, sexual sickness, and governmental corruption, Ibsen defied tradition. Ibsen is referred to be the "father of modern drama" since he transformed modern theater.

Among the key traits that Ibsen and other well-known playwrights established are:

- A realistic and naturalistic setting with a storyline that is based on actual events
- A focus on the individual rather than the community or crowd
- a breaking of the fourth wall to deliver a speech directly to the audience
- an exploration of contentious social, political, and psychological themes



- a subtext and ambiguity rather than direct exposition
- a violation of theatrical conventions, such as open endings and plot holes

Some of Henrik Ibsen's most renowned modernist works that exemplify his key contributions to Modern English Drama are as follows:

No	Play	Description
1.	A Doll's House	Groundbreaking play where the female protagonist Nora leaves her family seeking independence, shocking Victorian audiences.
2.	Ghosts	Ibsen tackled the controversial topic of hereditary syphilis through this unflinching depiction of hidden sins catching up.
3.	Hedda Gabler	Complex character study of the intellectually stifled Hedda who manipulates others for amusement in a psychological drama.
4.	An Enemy of the People	Parable confronting societal corruption and hypocrisy through a



		physician fighting popularity to advocate an unpopular truth.
5.	The Wild Duck	Ritualistic drama using the symbolic wild duck to explore complex themes of illusion, truth and family relationships.
6.	The Pillars of Society	Naturalistic satire of middle-class morality and social conventions through a small-town corruption scandal.
7.	Rosmersholm	Psychological drama tackling issues of moral duty, feminism and decaying traditions of the church and state.
8.	The Master Builder	Allegorical drama about an aging architect facing a revelation that forces him to confront past mistakes and renewed passion.
9.	John Gabriel Borkman	Tragic drama revolving around failed aspirations, wasted potential and alienation in old age.



