

Drama Unit Guided Notes



“Elements of Literature: Drama” pg. 852-854

Plays: Stories Acted Out

- A _____ is a story acted out, live and onstage.
 - Elements of plays include: _____

Dramatic Structure

- The plot is based on _____. As the conflict grows more complicated, the _____ increases.
Finally the tension reaches a _____.
Then the conflict is resolved, the action winds down, and the play ends.

The March Toward Tragedy

- A _____ is the presentation of serious and important actions that end unhappily.
 - Tragic hero -- _____
 - Tragic flaw -- _____

The Dance of Comedy

- A _____ is a play that ends happily.
 - Characteristics of comedies include: _____

Scene Design: Dressing the Stage

- Elements of scene design include:
 - _____ - transforms the bare stage into that place and time
 - _____ - illuminates plays which take place inside a building
 - _____ - the portable items that actors carry or handle onstage; short for _____
 - _____ - what the actors wear
 - These elements of scene design all work together to help sustain the audience’s _____ in the reality of the play.

Characters Onstage

- _____ - the conversation between characters
- _____ - A long speech by one character to one or more other characters onstage
- _____ - a character speaks to the audience or to another character within dialogue that is not supposed to be heard by other characters onstage.

- _____ - describe how the characters move around the stage and how they speak their lines. When a play is published, these directions usually appear in _____. Stage directions are usually regarded as _____ rather than rigid specifications.
- The actor and director decide how to _____ the lines of a play.

“William Shakespeare’s Life: A Genius from Stratford” pgs. 890-891

- What we know about Shakespeare’s personal life comes mainly from _____ and _____ documents.
- He was born around _____ in Stratford, England.
- He got married at the age of _____ to _____ and they had three children: Susannah, Hamnet and Judith.
- Shakespeare moved to _____ and left his family behind in Stratford.
- By 1592, Shakespeare had work as both an _____ and a _____. He worked for a theatrical company called _____ or the King’s Men.
- He retired by 1612 after having written _____ plays.
- He died on his birthday at the age of _____ in the year _____.

“Shakespeare and His Theater: A Perfect Match” pgs. 892-894

- Shakespeare’s theater influenced _____.
- The first permanent theater in England was called _____ and it was built by _____ in the year _____.
 - This theater got its shape and form from _____.
 - In 1599, this theater was torn down and parts of it were used to build the _____.
- Shakespeare called the Globe Theater _____.
 - Describe the Globe Theater: _____
 - _____
- Plays during Shakespeare’s time were performed during _____.
 - There was no need for stage lighting because _____.
 - The stage used very minimal “sets.” Instead, the stage was set with _____ meaning _____.
 - Costumes were often _____.
 - The stage made for a theater of great _____.
 - Plays were originally performed by _____ and women’s roles were performed by _____.
- Today’s plays use a _____ meaning there is only an inner stage with a large curtain that separates the stage from the audience.
- Movies today are basically a _____ medium and so much chiefly engage and delight the _____ rather than the _____.
 - The theater is much more a medium of _____.

“How to Read Shakespeare” pgs. 895-896

- *Romeo and Juliet* is written both in _____ and _____.
- Prose is mostly spoken by _____.
- Poetry is spoken by _____.
- _____ - poetry written in unrhymed iambic pentameter.
- An _____ is a unit pattern of a stressed syllable followed by an unstressed syllable.
- _____ means there are five units in each line
- _____ - poetry written in unrhymed iambic pentameter.
- _____ - two consecutive lines of rhymed poetry
- Shakespeare uses this technique to punctuate _____ or _____.
- _____ - has some punctuation at the end of a line of poetry.
- _____ - has no punctuation at the end of a line of poetry.
- _____ - words or some word meanings that have disappeared from common use.

“Before you Read” pgs. 897-898

- Usually a tragedy ends with _____.
- Shakespeare’s plays usually follow this five-part pattern:
 - Act 1 = _____
 - Act 2 = _____
 - Act 3 = _____
 - Act 4 = _____
 - Act 5 = _____
- _____ - establishes the setting, introduces some of the main characters, explains background, and introduces the characters’ main conflict.
- _____ - consists of a series of complications. (Events after the exposition that lead towards the turning point.)
- _____ - also called the crisis, is the moment when a choice is made by the main characters and determines the direction of the action.
 - Happy ending for a _____
 - Downward for a _____
- _____ - presents events that result from the action taken at the turning point.
- _____ - occurs at the end of the play, in a tragedy with the deaths of main characters.
- _____ - all the loose parts of the plot are tied up & the play is over. Also called denouement.
- _____ - sidenotes throughout the play which help you visualize the play being performed.