

Act: The major division in a play; can be divided into scenes

Antagonist: A character or force against which another character struggles

Aside: When a character says something to the audience that isn't heard by the other characters

Chorus: A group of characters (esp. in a Greek tragedy) who act like narrators and comment on the action without participating

Comedy: A dramatic work in which the main theme is triumph over adverse circumstances

Dialogue: A conversation between two or more characters

Dynamic Character: This person undergoes an important change or development during the play

Foil: A secondary character whose situation parallels the main character's

Foreshadowing: Hinting at what is to come – sometimes through an object that becomes important later in the play

Fourth wall: The invisible division between the characters and the audience

Hubris: The arrogant pride in a character that will ultimately lead to his/her downfall

Monologue: Lines spoken by only one character

Motivation: A character's main drive or purpose

Plot: the events in a play

Prologue: An introductory speech that introduces background information or characters

Protagonist: The main character in the literary work – the one we "root for"

Scene: A subdivision of an act – one event or conversation

Stage directions: The playwright's instructions to the actors

Static Character: A character who undergoes little to no inner change

Subplot: A parallel or smaller plot that coexists with the main action of the play

Tragedy: A type of drama in which characters experience a reversal in fortune, usually for the worse

Tragic flaw: A hero's weakness, usually resulting in his/her demise