

ELEMENTS OF DRAMA

Elements of drama/theatre are the things that make up a drama/theatre

Plot:

This is the arrangement of events in a story in a sequential order. In a plot, the stories are arranged in the order in which the actions took place. Drama is divided into acts and scene. Scenes are little episodes while acts are collection of related scenes. Thus, scenes make up acts, acts make up a script. Plots also have points of climax.

Script/improvisation:

This refers to the means of actualizing a drama. A script is a written drama. On it, the actions and speeches of the characters are written. A drama based on a script is usually called scripted drama. Improvisation is not written. Actors and actresses put up actions on stage based on a given story. They are at liberty to creatively devise speeches and actions that suit the roles, moods and personality of the character they are portray. A drama based on a improvisation is usually called unscripted drama

Characterization:

This refers to the characters or persons in a drama whose story is acted. Characters refer to roles in a drama. In a drama, we may have characters such as mother, father, student, police man, lawyer, teacher, mad man, thief, king, princess etc. There are two types of character: **A flat character and round character**. A flat character does not change despite the various situations faced in a drama. A round character changes in the course of a drama.

Diction:

This is the choice of words of the writer. A playwright, that is, the writer of a play usually has in mind the language that the character should give on stage.

Theme/thought:

This refers to the message or lesson of a drama. Every playwright has a message he/she wishes to pass across. Theme featured in plays include trust, love, kindness, betrayal, hard work, patience, self-control and so on.

Stage:

This is the area or space where acting occurs. It usually faces the place where the audience sits. Usually, a stage is a raised platform.

Audience:

This refer to the people who watch a drama performance. Audience may clap, laugh, stand, or smile in the course of a drama performance in reaction to the actions on stage.

Sound:

This refers to the audio aspects of a drama production. This includes songs and sound effects. Sound effects are usually in the form of gunshot, thunderstorm, sound of a rushing wind, and so on.

Lights:

This refers to the use of light at various points in a drama performance to enhance the actions and create certain effects.

Spectacle:

This is the visual aspects of a drama presentation. It includes the various designs on the stage, the costume designs, make-up designs, props, scenery and even the lights.

Review Questions

Define the elements of drama

List ten elements of drama

Explain the following elements of drama

- (a) Plot
- (b) Characterization
- (c) Diction
- (d) Theme