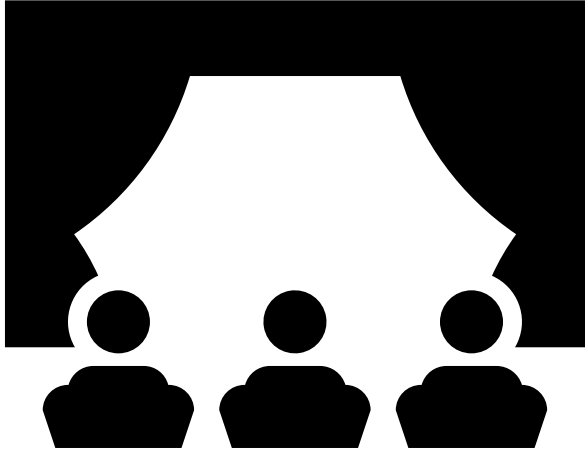




# Exploring the Conventions of Drama

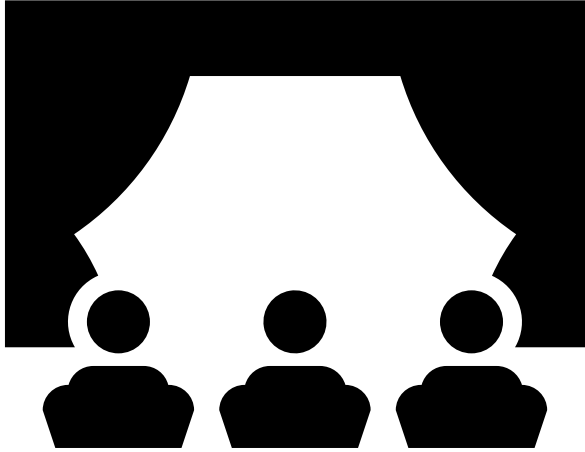
Unit 3 Lesson 1

# Understanding the Conventions of Drama



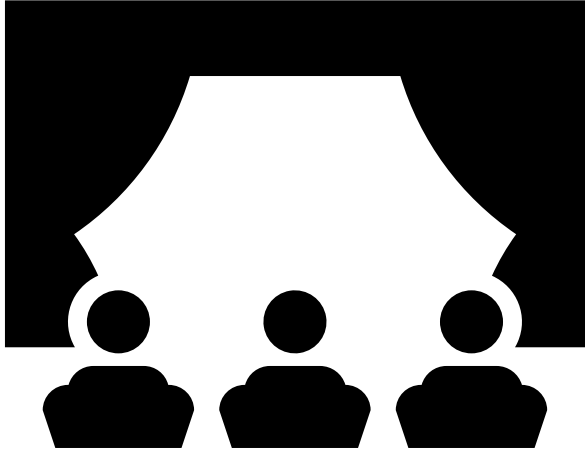
- ▶ **Definition:** Drama is literature in play form, meant to be performed and seen.
- ▶ **Conventions:**
  1. **Stage Directions:** Describe settings, characters, and historical background.
  2. **Dialogue:** Conversations between characters that move the plot forward and reveal character traits.
  3. **Character Types:** Includes heroes, villains, and foils to heighten the tension.
  4. **Plot:** The sequence of actions driven by conflict within the play.
- ▶ **Example:**
  - **Arthur Miller's "The Crucible":** Utilizes these conventions to create a compelling story about the Salem witch trials.

# Understanding How to Draw Conclusions About Characters



- ▶ **Definition:** Drawing conclusions about characters involves interpreting their actions, dialogue, and interactions within the play.
- ▶ **How to Analyze:**
  1. **Examine Dialogue:** Look at what characters say and how they say it.
  2. **Observe Actions:** Note what characters do and how they behave.
  3. **Consider Relationships:** Analyze how characters interact with each other.
  4. **Reflect on Stage Directions:** Understand the context provided by the playwright.
- ▶ **Examples from "The Crucible":**
  - **John Proctor:** His dialogue and actions reveal his internal conflict and moral integrity.
  - **Abigail Williams:** Her manipulative behavior and interactions show her as a central antagonist.

# Drama



- ▶ Definition: Drama is literature in play form, meant to be performed and seen.
- ▶ Key Elements:
  - Performance: Designed for actors on stage.
  - Visual and Auditory: Includes visual elements like costumes and sets, and auditory elements like music and sound effects.
  - Live Audience: Engages a live audience through direct interaction.
- ▶ Example:
  - Arthur Miller's "The Crucible": A play that examines the Salem witch trials through dramatic performance.
- ▶ How to Analyze:
  1. Read Aloud: Consider how dialogue sounds when spoken.
  2. Visualize Scenes: Imagine the stage directions and set designs.
  3. Watch Performances: Observe how different actors and directors interpret the text.

# Stage Directions and Dialogue



- ▶ Stage Directions:
  - ▶ Definition: Instructions in the script to describe settings, characters, and historical background.
  - ▶ Examples from "The Crucible": “[A small upper bedroom in the home of Reverend Samuel Parris]” or “[Enter John Proctor, angry and frustrated].”
  - ▶ How to Analyze:
    - ▶ Visualize the Scene: Picture the setting and action.
    - ▶ Understand Context: Use directions to grasp historical or situational context.
- ▶ Dialogue:
  - ▶ Definition: Talking between characters, which moves the plot forward and reveals character traits.
  - ▶ Examples from "The Crucible": Exchanges between John Proctor and Abigail Williams that reveal their past relationship and current tensions.
  - ▶ How to Analyze:
    - ▶ Character Insights: Learn about characters’ personalities and motivations.
    - ▶ Plot Development: Observe how dialogue advances the story.

# Character Types and Plot



- ▶ **Character Types:**

- ▶ **Heroes:** Protagonists who drive the story.

- ▶ **Example from "The Crucible":** John Proctor - Struggles with his conscience and seeks to expose the truth.

- ▶ **Villains:** Antagonists who create conflict.

- ▶ **Example from "The Crucible":** Abigail Williams - Instigates the witch trials and manipulates others.

- ▶ **Foils:** Characters who contrast with the main character to highlight particular qualities.

- ▶ **Example from "The Crucible":** Reverend Hale - His change from confident expert to disillusioned critic contrasts with Proctor's consistent integrity.

- ▶ **Plot:**

- ▶ **Definition:** Actions that occur in the play, driven by conflict.

- ▶ **Components:**

- ▶ **Exposition:** Introduction of characters and setting (Salem during the witch trials).

- ▶ **Rising Action:** Accusations of witchcraft escalate.

- ▶ **Climax:** Proctor's confession and ultimate refusal to falsely admit guilt.

- ▶ **Falling Action:** The fallout from Proctor's decision.

- ▶ **Resolution:** The tragic conclusion with Proctor's execution.

# Character Types and Plot - cont'd



- ▶ How to Analyze:
- ▶ Identify Conflicts: Look for central conflicts driving the plot.
- ▶ Track Progression: Follow the sequence of events from exposition to resolution.
- ▶ Character Development: Observe how characters change throughout the plot.