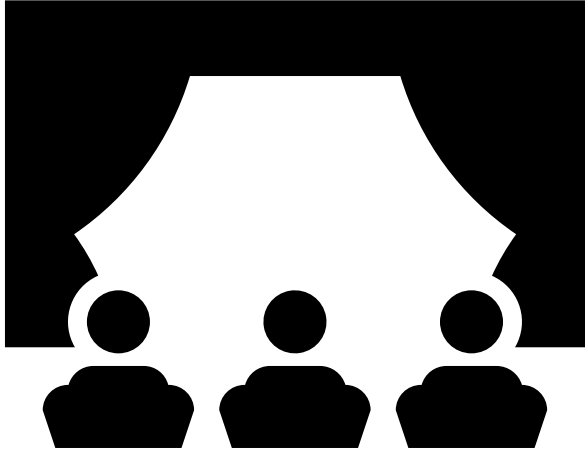




Understanding Character Types in Drama

Unit 3 Lesson 2

Types of Characters in Drama



▶ Protagonist:

- **Definition:** The leading character or one of the major characters. Often seen as the hero.
- **Characteristics:**
 - Central to the plot
 - Faces challenges and conflicts
 - Typically undergoes significant personal growth or change

▶ Example:

- **John Proctor in "The Crucible":** Struggles with his own guilt and the moral corruption in Salem, ultimately emerging as a tragic hero.

Analyzing Protagonists



▶ **Protagonist Analysis:**

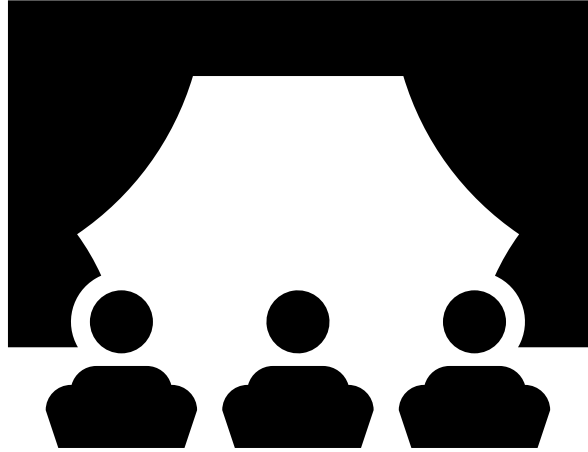
1. **Identify Challenges:** Look at the obstacles the protagonist faces.
2. **Examine Growth:** Consider how the character evolves over the course of the play.
3. **Understand Motivations:** Reflect on the character's goals and desires.

▶ **Example:**

• **John Proctor:**

- **Challenges:** Accusations of witchcraft, personal guilt.
- **Growth:** Moves from guilt to taking a stand for truth.
- **Motivations:** Protecting his name, seeking redemption.

Understanding Antagonists



▶ Antagonist:

- **Definition:** A character who is an adversary or villain, opposing the protagonist.
- **Characteristics:**
 - Creates obstacles for the protagonist
 - Often embodies the conflict within the story
 - Can be morally complex or purely villainous

▶ Example:

- **Abigail Williams in "The Crucible":** Manipulates others and drives the witch trials, opposing John Proctor.

Analyzing Antagonists



▶ Antagonist Analysis:

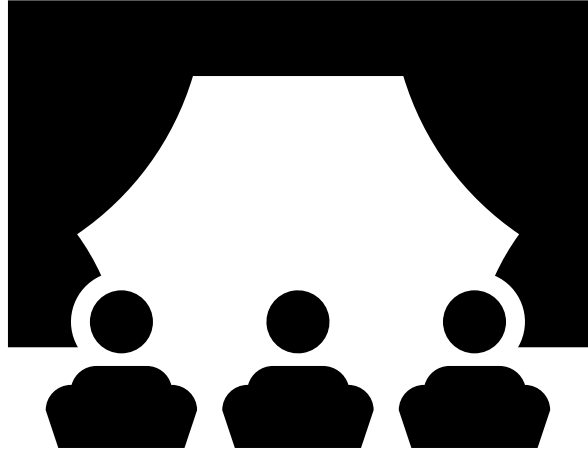
1. **Identify Conflicts:** Look at how the antagonist creates obstacles for the protagonist.
2. **Examine Motivations:** Consider why the antagonist acts as they do.
3. **Understand Complexity:** Reflect on whether the antagonist is purely evil or has more nuanced characteristics.

▶ Example:

• Abigail Williams:

- **Conflicts:** Accuses others of witchcraft to protect herself.
- **Motivations:** Desire for power, fear of punishment, personal vendetta against Elizabeth Proctor.
- **Complexity:** Her actions are driven by fear, desire, and vindictiveness.

Understanding Foil Characters



▶ Foils:

- **Definition:** Two characters the reader is supposed to compare and contrast.
- **Purpose:**
 - Highlight contrasting qualities
 - Enhance the traits of the protagonist or other main characters
 - Provide deeper insight into characters through comparison

▶ Example:

- **Reverend Hale vs. John Proctor in "The Crucible":** Hale's initial confidence in the witch trials and subsequent disillusionment contrast with Proctor's consistent moral struggle.

Analyzing Foil Characters



▶ Foil Analysis:

1. **Identify Differences:** Look at how the foils are different from each other.
2. **Examine Similarities:** Consider what they have in common.
3. **Reflect on Purpose:** Understand how these contrasts highlight key traits of each character.

▶ Example:

• Reverend Hale vs. John Proctor:

- **Differences:** Hale's faith in the legal system vs. Proctor's skepticism.
- **Similarities:** Both are fundamentally good men who seek the truth.
- **Purpose:** Hale's journey from certainty to doubt highlights Proctor's consistent moral integrity and ultimate redemption.