

# ELEMENTS OF DRAMA

## I. Drama

- literature enacted in front of an audience by people who play the parts
- origination unknown
- first literary dramas – created in ancient Greece, developed from reenactments of religious rituals
- *tragoidia* (Greek) – tragedy
- 5<sup>th</sup> century, Greek playwright(Aeschylus) added a second actor, drama was born

## II. Types of Drama

- Two types – Comedies/Tragedies
- Comedies – work with a happy ending
- Tragedies – work with the fall of a person of high status; wins the audience's sympathy in some way

## III. Types of Stages

- arena stage – open-air amphitheaters
- M.A.- courtyards, back of wagons
- thrust stage – platform that jutted into area open to the sky
- (Elizabethian Time Period)
- proscenium stage – picture stage

## IV. Elements of Drama

- playwright- author of play- depends on interpretations given by directors, designers, actors, stage crew
- script – written form of play – contains stage directions, dialogue, and is divided into scenes or stages

- **dialogue** – speech of the actors in a play, may contain monologues (long speeches)
- **soliloquy** – speech by a lone character on stage
- **aside** – statement intended for audience or a single character but not by all characters

#### **V. Acts/Scenes**

- **Act** – major division of drama (typically 5 acts), modern time (1 to 3 acts)
- **divided into scenes**

#### **VI. Stage Directions**

- **notes provided by playwright to describe how something is done**
- **spectacles- lighting, sound, curtains, makeup, costumes, props**