

Words	Description
Artistic expression	To communicate feelings, ideas, and experiences for an audience; usually performed in a theatrical setting
blocking	Arranging the movements on stage EX: a character enters from the left side of the stage and sneaks to the center, looking to left and right
character	A literary element of drama: a person or animal that an actor is playing EX: Dakota Fanning played Fern in <i>Charlotte's Web</i>
climax	The most exciting or important moment in the conflict
commedia dell'arte	An Italian form of popular comedy during the 16th and 17th centuries, characterized by predictable characters and familiar plots, few props, and improvisation
costume	A technical element of drama: clothing worn by an actor to help represent the character
dialect	A regional variety of a language where pronunciation and vocabulary are slightly different EX: a Southern dialect would include "ya'll"
dialogue	The talking that characters do onstage to express their feelings, thoughts, and actions
diction	What kinds of words someone chooses, and how clearly someone says their words
diversion	Something that distracts or amuses; pastime
empathy	Ability to participate in the feelings or thoughts of another person
exposition	The part of a drama that provides background information needed to understand the characters and action and setting
falling action	Events following the climax of the story
folktales	Stories passed down orally from generation to generation EX: <i>Adventures of Brer Rabbit</i>
gestures	Body movements to express thought or emphasize speech EX: shrugging shoulders, shaking fist
Kabuki theatre	Traditional Japanese popular drama with singing and dancing performed in a highly stylized manner
Literary elements of drama	Some literary parts of drama: script, plot/story line, character, story organization
melodrama	Drama characterized by exaggerated emotions and interpersonal conflicts
monologue	A long speech by one person alone on stage, often used to let the audience know what that character is privately thinking
Neo-Classicism	Dominant theatre of the 18th century which featured elaborate costumes and scenery, large gestures, and melodrama
Passing on tradition & culture	To communicate values, beliefs, experiences, and stories of the past EX: storytelling, acting out the nativity story at church
Performance elements of drama	Basic performance parts of drama: acting, speaking, nonverbal expression, and movement
plot	A literary element of drama: the main events or action
point of view	The perspective from which the drama is presented
projection	Speaking loudly and clearly enough so an audience can hear and understand
props	Items used on stage that help actors tell a story or perform their parts EX: a character might carry a cane for a prop to indicate that he is an old man

Realism	Began in last half of the 19th century as an experiment to make theatre more useful to society; drama observed human behavior and dealt with contemporary problems and settings
Recreational	Entertainment for the people creating and participating in the drama, and drama created for recreational events EX: readers' theater with everyone taking a speaking part, skit performed at a festival
Renaissance	English drama written before reformation and closure of theatres in 1642
resolution	The part of a drama where the complications of the plot are solved
rising action	Events following the initial incident and leading to the climax
ritual	The established form for a ceremony
Romanticism	Characterized by the urge to reassert freedom and national consciousness (last decades of the 18th century)
satire	Artistic form in which human shortcomings are ridiculed sometimes with the intent of bringing about improvement
scenery	Items on stage that help show the audience where a play takes place EX: a tree on the stage would help the audience recognize that the play takes place in a forest
script	The written text of a play, a movie, television, or radio show
setting	The time and place of action in a story EX: The setting of <i>The Sound of Music</i> is around W.W. II in Germany and Austria
Sharing the human experience	To communicate feelings, ideas, experiences EX: political satire
stage directions	Words used to describe parts of the stage from the actors' perspective (stage left, stage right, center stage, upstage, downstage)
suspense	The nervous feeling that something bad is going to happen soon to the characters
Technical elements of drama	Basic technical parts of drama: scenery, costumes, props, make-up, lighting, sound, design
theme	The big idea of a story