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**LMD ONE: 2020- 2021 GR: 2**

**Lecture Six: Literary Types**

**Drama**

**Definition**

Drama is a written literary text which holds a story that is predestined to be performed by actors on a stage (theatrical performance) before an audience. First, it was written in verse (like poetry) but today it is written even in prose. The word drama comes from Greek and means an act or a play. The producer of drama is called a ‘dramatist’ or a ‘playwright’. The dramatic text is composed of dialogues between characters. Aristotle defines drama as: “man in action or man’s action”. Also, Marjory Bolton says: “drama is literature that talks and walks before our eyes”. Drama is a story with all the elements of a story like characters or the actors, setting, actions, conflicts, themes, and the plot. The most important characteristic of drama is acting on a stage in front of an audience. It generally comprises dialogues between characters.

**Types of Drama**

Drama has many types that can be classified according to the themes, mood, and resolution of the play. The most known ones are Tragedy, Comedy, Melodrama, Farce, and Historical plays.

* **Tragedy**

This type goes back to the Greeks and is related to Greek mythology (the scarifying of the goat or what is known as the tragos). Tragedies are stories with serious tones that end with sadness, death, or a catastrophe. They are written to generate pity, calamities, and fear. For example Shakespeare's Hamlet.

* **Comedy**

It enfolds a lighter tone and it is written to generate joy, laughter, and happiness. It ends happily. For example *Shakespeare's* Much Ado About Nothing.

* **Melodrama**

This type represents common figures or heroes (good and bad) who are put in serious thrilling, sentimental and regularly risky circumstances. Much exaggeration is played in this type of drama. For example Tennessee Williams’ [The Glass Menagerie](https://www.thoughtco.com/the-glass-menagerie-overview-2713491).

* **Historical Play**

This type is based on the history of a king or famous personality. This type is modern and it reported the historical events objectively without delete following the chronological order when telling the story. Thus, the conclusion of the story depends on reality rather than imagination. Shakespeare is known for writing this type. For example Shakespeare’s   [*Richard III*](https://www.enotes.com/topics/richard-3?en_action=hh_answer_body_click&en_label=%2Fhomework-help%2Fwhat-elements-an-historical-play-138113%23answer-466512&en_category=internal_campaign) and[*Henry VIII*](https://www.enotes.com/topics/henry-8?en_action=hh_answer_body_click&en_label=%2Fhomework-help%2Fwhat-elements-an-historical-play-138113%23answer-466512&en_category=internal_campaign)