

**Ministry of Higher Education and
Scientific Research/University of Tikrit
College of Education for Humanities
Department of English**



Dr .Faustus / Drama

Second Stage

**What is Drama and The main types of drama are
tragedy and comedy**

By

Lect. Assist.. Mohamad Khalaf Hamdan

2026/2025

Doctor Faustus

Christopher Marlowe

What is Drama?

Drama refers to any work that was written to be performed by actors on a stage.

The main types of drama are tragedy and comedy.

1- **Tragedy** :A type of drama which presents the downfall of great man towards a sorrowful end .

***The tragic hero**: The central character of a tragic play, a great man who is trapped into a situation.

***Tragic flow**: It is key the weakness within the character of the tragic hero. It is necessary to cause the downfall towards his tragic end .

2- **Comedy** : A type of drama in which the materials are selected and managed primarily in order to amuse the audience.

Kinds of Comedy: in fact there are various methods of classifying comedies:

1- **Comedy of manner**: A type of comedy which demands sophisticated characters and realistic background. It deals with the behavior of men and women who are living.

2-**Satiric comedy**: A type of comedy in which the dramatist tries to achieve specific aims beyond mere entertainment.

3-**Romantic comedy**: A type of comedy which presents a love affair that requires or demands a beautiful and engaging heroine ; the course of this love overcomes many obstacles in happy union

4-**Farce**: A type of comedy which involves a ridiculous plot which cannot possibly be true.

The main elements of drama

Plot: The sequence of events of which a play is composed.

The plot is usually structured with acts and scenes and the action begins from the initial entanglement.

***Introduction**

***Rising action**

***Climax**

***Falling action**

***resolution**

Character: A character simply is one of the persons who appears in the play .

A flat character: This type is built around single idea or quality. It faces no development throughout the events and can be described by a single phrase or sentence.

Round character: This type character is complex because it faces several developments during the action

Irony: A term with a range of meaning or has a second meaning intended by the writer. There are two kinds of irony:

- 1- **Verbal Irony** : A figure of speech in which the discrepancy (difference) is between what is said and what is meant/
- 2- **Irony of situation**: Situational irony takes place when the opposite of what is expected actually happens.
- 3- **Dramatic irony**: occurs when the audience knows something that the characters don't .

Important Terms

Setting: is the time and place in which the action of any literary work occurs. It is the state of the environment in which a situation exists.

Theme: It means the central idea around which the events of the play are built.

Action: The main series of events that constitute the plot of play

Act and scene: Act is the main division of the action of the play. In England this division was introduced by Elizabethan dramatists who imitated ancient Roman play structuring the action into five acts.

Soliloquy: A speech said by a character when he is alone on the stage . It reflects speakers feeling.

Aside : A speech said by a character when there are many characters at least more than one the stage. This speech is directed to the audience , it supposed to be heard by the audience but not by the other characters. It is generally a comment on a speech of the characters.

Chorus: In Greek drama , The Chorus is a group of actors who comment on the action in choral odes separating the episodes of the play . in Elizabethan drama , chorus refers to a single character who recites the prologue and sometimes comments on the action.

Symbolism: It means the use of symbols by the author in order to convey as much ideas as he can by minimum number of words. A literary symbol.

Dialogue: A conversation between two or more persons in the literary work. The dialogue provides the substance of the play.

Christopher Marlowe

Christopher Marlowe was born in 1564 , two months before Shakespeare in the town of Canterbury. He was one of the greatest of Shakespeare's predecessors. He was the son of a poor shoe maker. He was educated at the town Grammar school and then at the University of Cambridge . At the age of twenty three 1587, he produced his first play, Tamburlaine, in five years , he produced all his great work. Then he was stabbed in a drunken fight and died at the age of twenty nine in about 1593.

Dr. Faustus by Christopher Marlowe

The structure of the play:

(The play consists of 5 acts divided as follows:

Act one contains 4 scenes.

Act two contains 3 scenes.

Act three contains 3 scenes.

Act four contains 7 scenes.

Act five contains 3 scenes.