

Playwriting Glossary

CHARACTER: Who the actor pretends to be. Characters want things, have goals and objectives.

PROTAGONIST: Main character of the story.

DIALOGUE: A conversation between two or more characters.

CONFLICT: Obstacles that get in the way of a character achieving what they want.

SCENE: A single situation or UNIT of a play.

STAGE DIRECTIONS: Instructions from the playwright to the actors, designers, and theatrical collaborators – relaying instructions on how to tell their story.

SETTING: Time and place where the story is set.

MONOLOGUE: A speech that one character gives on stage.

PLOT: The structure of the story that the play tells. Includes Exposition, Rising Action, Climax, Conclusion.

EXPOSITION: The beginning part of the plot that gives the background information the audience needs to understand the story.

RISING ACTION: The middle part of the plot. Consisting of complications, discoveries, and conflict.

CLIMAX: The turning point in the Plot.

CONCLUSION: The resolution of the story. The characters learn their lessons! 😊