The six Aristotelian elements of drama

plot, character, thought, diction, spectacle, and song

What is drama?

-Drama is a composition of prose or poetry that is transformed into a performance on stage.

-The story progresses through interactions between its characters and ends with a message for the audience.

Aristotelian elements of drama

According to Aristotle, the elements of drama

are, **plot**, **character**, **thought**, **diction**, **spectacle**, and **song**.

(https://entertainism.com/elements-of-drama)

# Aristotelian elements of drama

- **1 plot**
- -The order of events occurring in a play make its plot.
- -The entertainment value of a play depends largely on the sequence of events in the story.
- -The connection between the events and the characters in them form an integral part of the plot. What the characters do, how they interact, the course of their lives as narrated by the story, and what happens to them in the end, constitutes the plot.

7 Types of Plots

- (https://www.masterclass.com/articles/everything-you-need-to-know-about-writing-plot#7-types-of-plots)

- The nature of the dramatic question informs the plot and what kind of story it will be.

- Are the characters threatened by something external or internal?

- What genre will the story be?

7 Types of Plots

- **Tragedy**. In a tragedy, your main character should undergo a major change of fortune — almost always from good to bad, happy to sad. Tragic characters have to suffer.
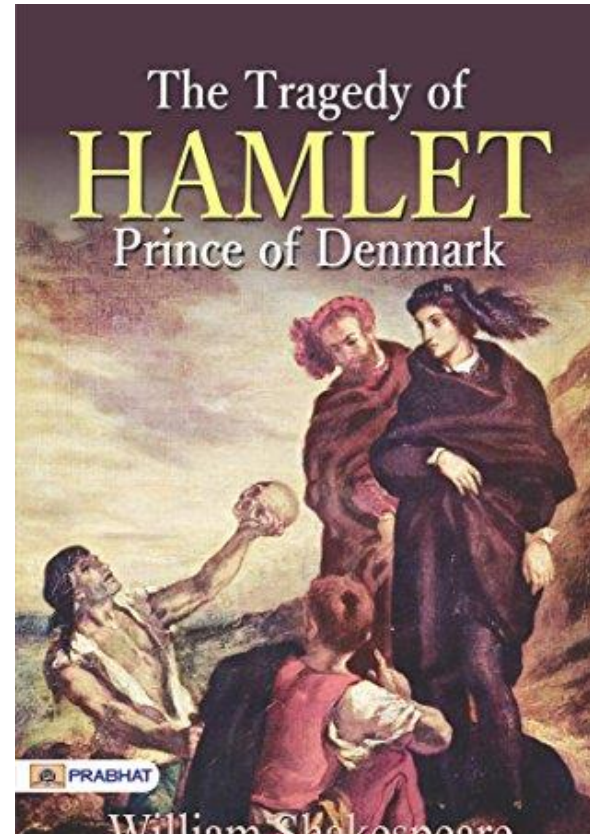
7 Types of Plots

Comedy. In comedy, even though your characters have defects, their defects should never wind up being painful or destructive. Comic characters make it through unscathed.
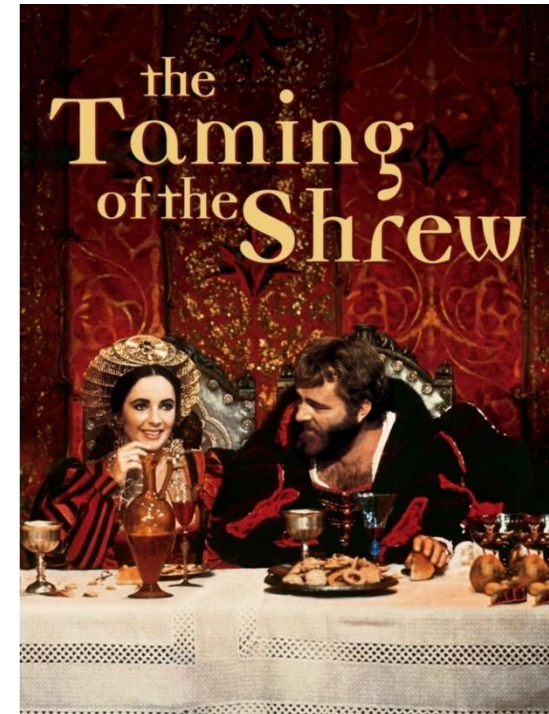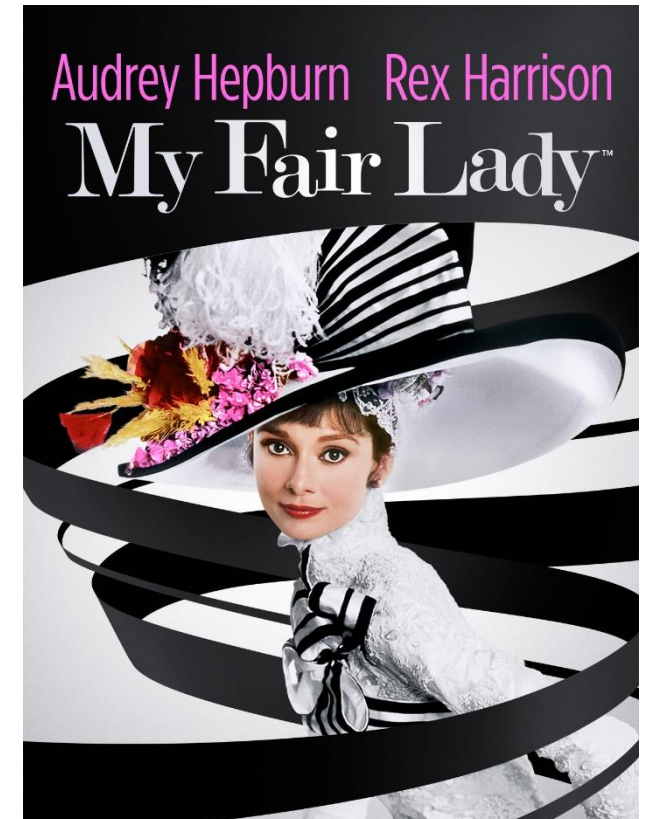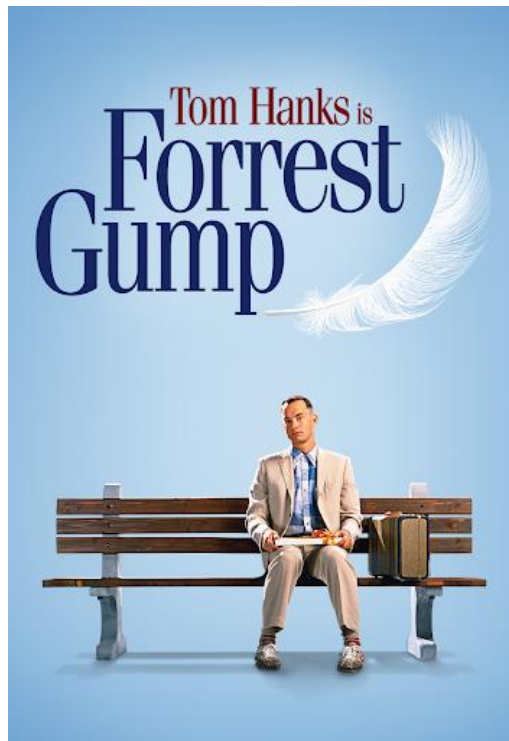
7 Types of Plots

- **Hero's Journey**. In a "hero's journey," the hero of a story must undergo two things: recognition and reversal of a situation. Something has to happen from the outside that inspires the hero in a way that he/she didn't realize before. Then he has to undertake a quest to solve the situation.

7 Types of Plots

- **Rags to Riches**. the protagonist is downtrodden, impoverished, or otherwise struggling, and through a series of events— either magical, like in the case of *Harry Potter*, or more realistic, like in *Great Expectations* — achieves success. This type of plot often features a happy ending.

7 Types of Plots

- **Rebirth**. The rebirth style of plot follows a character's transformation from bad to good. The character will frequently have a tragic past that informs their current negative view of life, however, a series of events (usually set in motion by the protagonist or a narrator) will help them see the light.

7 Types of Plots

- **Overcoming the Monster**. Otherwise known as the good versus evil plot, this type of story features a protagonist (good) fighting an antagonist (evil). The protagonist can be a singular character or a group united in their mission. The antagonist is generally a big, bad evil (like Darth Vader in *Star Wars*) who continuously throws obstacles in the protagonist's way—until the final battle.

7 Types of Plots

- **Voyage and Return**. This plot is a simple point A to point B and back to point A plot. The protagonist sets off on a journey, only to return to his or her starting point having gained wisdom and experience (and sometimes treasure too).
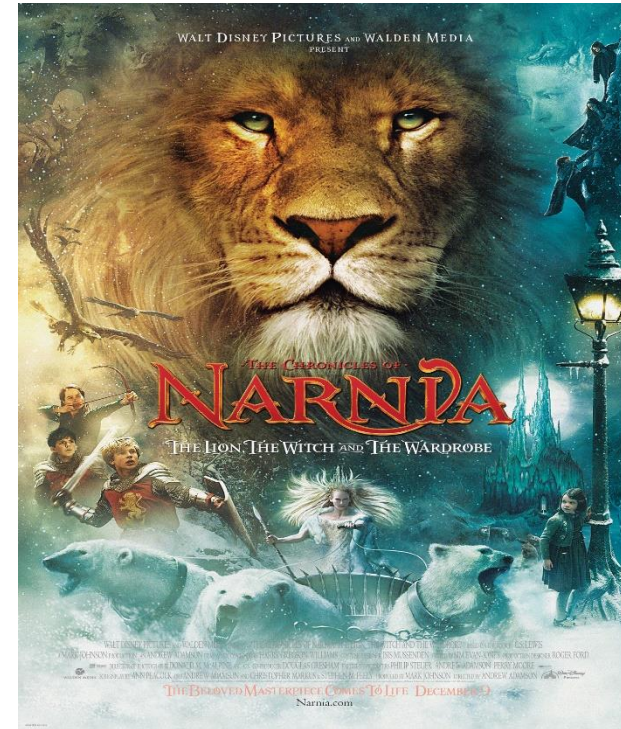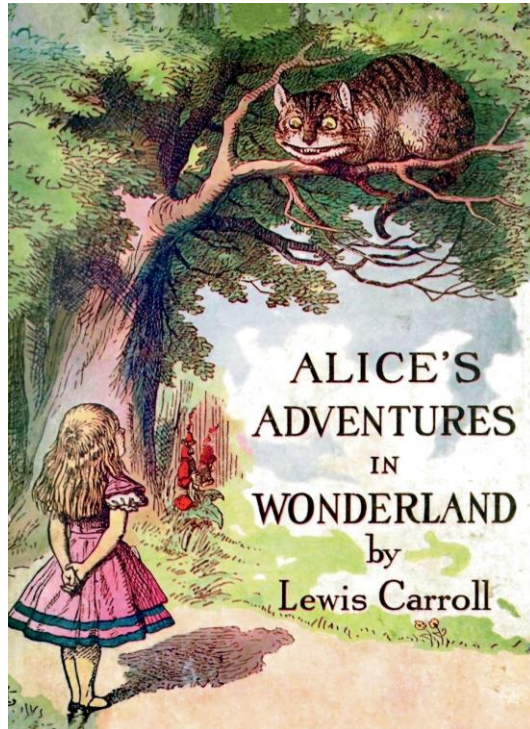
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- **2 character**

-Each character in a play has a personality of its own and a set of principles and beliefs.

-Actors in the play have the responsibility of bringing the characters to life.

-The main = the protagonist. He/she represents the theme of the play.

-The character that the protagonist conflicts with = the antagonist or villain.

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- **3 thought (theme)**

-The theme of a play refers to its central idea. It can either be clearly stated through dialog or action, or can be inferred after watching the entire performance.

-It is the message that the play gives to the audience.

For example, the play *Romeo and Juliet,* is based on a brutal and overpowering romantic love between Romeo and Juliet that forces them to go to extremes, finally leading them to self-destruction.

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- **4 diction (dialog)**

-The story is narrated to the audiences through the interaction between the play's characters, which is in the form of dialogs.

-The contents of the dialogs and the quality of their delivery have a major role to play in the impact that the play has on the audiences.

-They are important in revealing the personalities of the characters.

-The **words** used, the **accent**, **tone**, **pattern of speech**, and even the **pauses** in speech, say a lot about the character and help reveal not just his personality, but also his social status, past, and family background as given by the play.

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- **5 spectacle (setting)**

-The time and place where a story is set is one of its important parts.

-The time setting may affect the central theme of the play, the issues raised (if any), the conflict, and the interactions between the characters.

-The historical and social context of the play is also defined by the time and place where it is set. ((Costumes and makeup, the backgrounds and the furniture used, the visuals (colors and kind of lighting), and the sound))

Aristotelian elements of drama

- **5 spectacle (performance)**

-The impact that a story has on the audiences is largely affected by the performances of the actors.

-As different actors are cast for different roles, their roles are more or less appreciated depending on their performances.

-The stage performances of a play's characters, especially those in lead roles, directly affect the success and popularity of a play.

Aristotelian elements of drama

- **5 spectacle (visual element)**

-While the dialog and music are the **audible** aspects of drama, the **visual** element deals with the scenes, costumes, and special effects used in it.

Aristotelian elements of drama

- **6 song (music)**

-This element includes the use of sounds and rhythm in dialogs as well as music compositions that are used in the plays.

-The background score, the songs, and the sound effects used should complement the situation and the characters in it.

-The music and the lyrics should go well with the play's theme. If the scenes are accompanied by pieces of music, they become more effective on the audiences.