



**QUEENS COLLEGE OF ARTS AND  
SCIENCE FOR WOMEN**  
PUNALKUALAM, NEAR THANJAVUR

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

**TOPIC : DRAMA**

**SUBJECT : LITERARY FORMS**

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**UNIT III**  
**DRAMA**

# INTRODUCTION

- The study of literary forms is really interesting thing, as we get to learn how the human thoughts evolved gradually.
- It is very fascinating to trace the incredible journey of literature from its crude, early beginnings, when songs and stories were passed on from one generation to another.
- A study of literary genres and forms plays a vital role in sensitising the student of literature to the nuances of a work of art.

# DRAMA

- Drama presents fiction or fact in a form that could be acted before an audience.
- It is an imitation by action and speech.
- A play has a plot, characters, atmosphere and conflict.
- Unlike a novel , which is read in private , a play is intended to be performed in public.
- Traditionally drama is divided into two categories
  - Tragedy
  - Comedy

# THE TRAGEDY

- Tragedy deals with the dark side of life and the other with its light side.
- In tragedy the characters are involved in circumstances and situations that force them towards an unhappy end often called the climax.
- In ancient Greece both tragedy and comedy originated in the rustic festivals which were held in honour of the ‘nature god’, Dionysus.

## Contd...

- Tragedy deals with the more sombre aspects of life exemplified by the stories and legends chosen from mythology.
- In ancient Greece, Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripedes composed tragedies.
- Traditionally a tragedy required an exposition, a complication or conflict, a climax or crisis, denouements or resolution and a catastrophe at the end.

# THE COMEDY

- A Comedy is a play of light and amusing character with a happy conclusion to the plot.
- It adopts a humorous or familiar style and depicts laughable characters, incidents and situations.
- In comedy, even if there are serious and complex incidents ultimately they are resolved and plot ends in happiness.

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- Comedy also originated in ancient Greece from the festivals celebrating the nature god Dionysus.
- Comedy dealt with people of much less importance.
- Among the Greeks, Aristophanes was the most important comedy writer.



# ROMANTIC TRAGEDY

- In England an independent type of drama began to develop which was free the influence of Seneca and neoclassim.
- This is known as romantic drama.
- Shakespeare's great tragedies are as follows:
  - Othello -1603
  - Macbeth-1605
  - King Lear-1606

# FEATURES OF A ROMANTIC TRAGEDY

- The dialogue is predominantly poetical, although it sometimes lapses into the colloquial and the familiar.
- Romantic tragedy thus combines the idealistic with the realistic.
- Humours scenes are included, both to relieve the intensity of the tragic scenes and to provide a sharp ironical contrast.

# ROMANTIC COMEDY

- Romantic comedies are light hearted plays that deal with the follies of young lovers or the misunderstandings between them.
- Shakespeare is closely associated with the Romantic comedy.
  - *A Midsummer Night Dream*-1596
  - *As You Like It*-1600
  - *Twelfth Night*-1602

# FEATURES OF A ROMANTIC COMEDY

- Romantic comedy feature young lovers who are kept apart by some Obstacles to their union.
- These obstacles may be brought about by parents and guardians, or could be the result of unique circumstances.
- Stock characters, such as the witty fool, the drunk the beautiful heroine, the clever servant, etc., regularly appear in romantic comedies

**THANK YOU!...**