The Elements of Drama

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role: responsibilities in a scripted, improvised or devised work

actor

director

designer – costume, makeup, props, set, lighting, sound

character: who the character is and how they behave

character types or stereotypes

values, attitudes, intentions, actions

relationships: how the character gets on with others

connections and interactions between characters that affect the dramatic action

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focus: directing the audience’s attention to specific dramatic action to surprise and engage them

concentrate attention on a spatial direction or a point in space

focus can also mean concentration

tension: a sense of anticipation or conflict that drives dramatic action

anticipation, conflict, surprise , mystery

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voice: using voice expressively to communicate a character

tone, pace, pitch, quality, volume

movement: using the body expressively to create a character

facial expression, gesture, gait, posture

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situation: setting and circumstances

Who? What? Where? When? Why?

What is at stake?

space:

physical performance space

fictional space of the dramatic action

emotional space between characters

time: the timing of one moment to the next in the dramatic action

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symbol: when something is used to represent something else, to reinforce or extend dramatic meaning

language, ideas and dramatic meaning

mood and atmosphere: the feeling or tone created by or emerging from a performance

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