



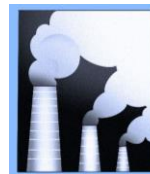
Drama

Y8 Spring Term: Melodrama!



What is a Stock Character?

Stock characters are used regularly in fiction, and they are immediately recognizable to readers.



Industrial Revolution

[in-'de-strē-el're-ve-'tū-shen]

A period of major industrialization and innovation during the late 1700s and early 1800s.

	Keyword	Meaning
1	Melodrama	A combination of the words music and drama where music helps to support the over-exaggerated acting style.
2	Exaggeration	Melodrama amplifies emotions and actions to heighten dramatic impact. Characters might sob uncontrollably, villains might cackle manically, and everything feels larger than life.
3	Emotional Intensity	Emotions are at the core of melodrama. Love, fear, anger, and despair are pushed to the extreme, often overwhelming rationality and driving the plot forward.
4	Villainy	Melodramas often feature a clear, ruthless villain who schemes and manipulates others. This character is typically portrayed as purely evil, with few redeeming qualities.
5	Heroism	The hero is usually noble and self-sacrificing. They face tremendous obstacles but remain morally upright, embodying goodness and justice.
6	Sentimentality	Melodrama tugs at the audience's heartstrings. Moments of tenderness, tragic love, or family loyalty are drawn out to maximize emotional impact.
7	Climactic Conflicts	The plot builds towards intense, sometimes explosive confrontations. These conflicts are not subtle — they're grand, passionate, and life-changing.
8	Moral Polarity	Characters are often divided into "good" and "evil" with little in between. Right and wrong are crystal clear, reinforcing simple moral lessons.
9	Suffering	Pain, both physical and emotional, is a hallmark of melodrama. Characters endure long bouts of suffering to evoke audience sympathy and emphasize the stakes.
10	Catharsis	The heightened emotions and dramatic resolutions provide the audience with a sense of release. After experiencing the characters' intense struggles, viewers feel emotionally purged and satisfied.

THE HERO

- Young, handsome, good in thought, word and deed.
- Every girl's dream.
- He is brave and faces danger full in the face.
- He will always defeat the villain, but it may look like he is defeated along the way.

THE HEROINE (or DAMSEL IN DISTRESS)

- Pretty, innocent, pure and good.
- In love with the hero.
- Is usually the focus of the villain's desires — either because of lust, money or envy.
- Unfortunately for modern audiences, usually quite helpless.

THE VILLAIN

- Bad through and through!
- He has no morals.
- Loves himself.
- He is usually upper class.
- He will do anything to get what he wants.