

- the setting, characters, dialogue, actions, themes, and textures
- How to read a play
 - Start with the title; understand what it is going to be about
 - Cast of characters; personalities the order will set the level of importance for that character
 - Stage directions; everything that is not dialogue
 - Given circumstances
 - Facts about the world of the play that are given
 - Themes
- Plot: the order of incidents in the play. Composed by actions
 - Linear/climactic plot: cause and effect. Ex: DOAS
 - Episodic plot: what happens in one episode doesn't affect another. Ex: family guy
 - Cyclical plot: begin and end in the same place
- Story: sets the scene and is what actually happened; exposition (things that happen before the play begins)
 - Point of attack: point in the story where the playwright begins the plot.
 - Complications or obstacles
 - Climax: point of the greatest dramatic tension. Ex: in DOAS, it's the fight between Willy and Biff
 - Denouncement: falling action or resolution
- Types of characters
 - Protagonist: desires sustain the dramatic action (Willy)*
 - Antagonist: creates complications for the protagonist (Willy/society/Biff)*
 - Raisonneur: speaks for the author, other than the protagonist. (Biff)
 - Foil: contrast to another character (Charley)*
 - Stock characters: common and predictable types that reappear
- Dramaturgy
 - Dramaturgs: good at analyzing plays; interested in context and conversation
 - Different situations:
 - Literary managers
 - Full time position, they maintain script library for theatre, and help with the season selection
 - Production dramaturgs
 - Hired for one play
 - Do a lot of research on the playwrights, context for the play, major productions, context for this production, and visual images
 - Communicating with the production team: directors, actors, designers, marketing
 - Communicating with the audience: lobby display, program notes, pre- and post- show talk backs
 - New play dramaturgs
 - Working with the playwrights

- Listen ask questions, help develop
- o Adaption vs. Translation
 - Adaptation is when, for example, a story is turned into a play production
 - Challenges of adaptation
 - Stories are written with description
 - Plays are described with dialogue and setting (how do you get thoughts on the stage)
 - Play setting needs to be clear
 - Size of the cast
 - References of specific places
 - Translation is a form of adaptation – it helps to understand the true meaning
 - Plays are translated into different forms such as from old English to contemporary ways for better understanding