

# CHAPTER EIGHT

Melodrama is a serious play  
that typically deals with  
serious dangers in a more  
obvious fashion.

The characters in melodrama  
are likely to be one-  
dimensional as opposed to the  
complex characters in  
tragedies.

Romanticism was a cultural attitude and a philosophical outlook on life that stressed individual achievement over both society and the universe.

Stages during the 19<sup>th</sup> century began to revolve from simple platforms separated from the audience into quite complex machines of magic.

Melodrama is more concerned with character, where tragedy is more concerned with plot.

The predominant mood of melodrama is suspense.

In melodrama, the concern is more on how things will end rather than on how events transform the personalities of the people involved.

Some characteristics of melodrama plotlines include:

1. Someone in danger
2. stakes are high for characters
3. object over which opponents struggle  
time is a major obstacle
4. Agent of action's fortune often changes

# Typical melodrama characters:

- the good guy
- the bad guy
- the character in distress
- the outsider
- subplots characters for comic relief

The dialogue in melodrama is not often complex and is, rather, a continuing series of position statements, epigrams, or repeated phrases.

Melodramas usually show a struggle between personifications of good and evil in which good often wins.