

CHAPTER TEN

Drama is a relatively late development in the history of playwriting.

Drame falls between tragedy
and comedy and are plays
about “average folks.”

Characters in drama do not easily fall into categories, nor are there recurrent plot patterns that we can identify.

The term tragicomedy first appeared to mean tragedies with happy endings.

Drama and tragicomedy are perhaps the two most important variants of the major genres.

The “concerns of the author” refer to the particular subjects or ideas the author seems most interested in.

Point-of-view refers to where the author is placing the audience in either an objective or subjective position.

Objective position – standing
on the outside looking in

Subjective Position – being in
the middle of the experience

The playwright's definition of the world is a summarizing statement and a simple description of how he/she defines reality.

Form, whether presentational or representational, refers to the relationship between the people on the stage and the people in the audience.

There is a physical and psychological barrier between actors and audience in traditional theater practice, and when typically not crossed, it is referred to as the fourth wall.

When assessing the “isms,”
account for:

1. The author’s point-of-view
2. The concerns of the author
3. The construction of the plot
4. The substance/texture of the
characters

5. The setting

6. The comprehensibility of the world

7. The language

8. Form:

presentational/representational

9. The playwright's definition of the world