

THE THEATRE (L'ESPACE THEATRAL)

the box office: <i>le bureau de location</i>	stage props: <i>des accessoires de scène</i>	to play the part of: <i>jouer le rôle de</i>
the cloakroom: <i>le vestibule</i>	flashing lights: <i>projecteurs</i>	a stage name: <i>un pseudonyme</i>
the stalls: <i>l'orchestre</i>	the lighting: <i>l'éclairage</i>	the top of the bill: <i>la tête d'affiche</i>
the circle: <i>le balcon</i>	brightly lit: <i>très éclairé</i>	an understudy: <i>une doublure</i>
the gallery: <i>le deuxième balcon</i>	dimly lit: <i>à peine éclairé</i>	to rehearse: <i>répéter</i>
the stage: <i>la scène</i>	the sound effects: <i>les effets sonores</i>	the dress rehearsal: <i>la répétition générale</i>
backstage: <i>dans les coulisses</i>	the audience: <i>le public</i>	a director: <i>un metteur en scène</i>
the stage door: <i>l'entrée des artistes</i>	the spectators: <i>les spectateurs</i>	the staging: <i>la mise en scène</i>
a stage hand: <i>un machiniste</i>	an actor: <i>un acteur</i>	to perform a play: <i>jouer une pièce</i>
a dressing room: <i>une loge</i>	an actress: <i>une actrice</i>	the performance: <i>le spectacle</i>
a make-up artist: <i>un maquilleur</i>	the cast of the play: <i>distribution / liste des comédiens qui jouent la pièce</i>	to play in a scene: <i>jouer dans une scène</i>
the wings: <i>les coulisses</i>	to cast a play: <i>distribuer les rôles</i>	the curtain rises: <i>le rideau se lève</i>
the scenery: <i>le décor</i>		

DRAMA (LE GENRE THEATRAL)

a play: <i>une pièce</i>	the dramatis personae: <i>la liste des personnages de la pièce</i>	a social satire: <i>une satire sociale</i>
a playwright: <i>un dramaturge</i>	the stage directions: <i>les didascalies / indications scéniques</i>	a puppet show: <i>un théâtre de marionnettes</i>
a screenplay: <i>un scénario</i> <i>(pour la télévision ou le cinéma)</i>	a tragedy: <i>une tragédie</i>	a Punch and Judy show: <i>un spectacle de guignol</i>
the script: <i>le texte</i> <i>(de la pièce / du scénario)</i>	a comedy: <i>une comédie</i>	

WHERE? WHEN?

I. THE STAGE DIRECTIONS

- Are there many / few / no **stage directions**? Why?
- Do they give any special indications about **the setting**?
- What use is made of **space**?
- Do the stage directions give information about **time**?
- Do they refer mostly to the **characters' movements** or do they refer to their **emotional / psychological reactions**?

WHO?

II. THE DRAMATIS PERSONAE

*** Define each character's relationship with:** * the other characters **on the stage** / * the **off-stage** characters.

to embody / to portray: <i>incarner</i>	the lead: <i>le rôle principal</i>	a villain: <i>un traître</i>
to set off: <i>mettre en valeur,</i>	a supporting part: <i>un rôle secondaire</i>	a stock character: <i>un personnage type</i>
to serve as a foil: <i>servir de faire valoir</i>		a fool, a jester: <i>un fou</i>

*** Study their language:**

- Do they speak in **prose** or **verse**? If there is an alternation of prose and verse, what does it reflect?
- Are the **cues** rather short or long? If there is an alternation of short and long cues, what does it reveal?
- What is the **meaning** of their speech? Do they **address** other characters, the audience, themselves?
- What do they **refer** to? Feelings, events?

a soliloquy: <i>un soliloque</i>	to give somebody his cue: <i>donner la réplique à quelqu'un</i>	the tone of voice: <i>le ton de la voix</i>
a monologue: <i>un monologue</i>	an aside: <i>un aparté</i>	a case of mistaken identity: <i>un quiproquo</i>
a cue: <i>une réplique</i>	a speech: <i>une tirade</i>	a pun: <i>un jeu de mots</i>
a dialogue: <i>un dialogue</i>		

*** Define each character's behaviour on stage:**

behaviour: <i>un comportement, une attitude</i>	to behave: <i>se comporter</i>
the movements on stage: <i>la façon dont les personnages se déplacent sur la scène</i>	a gesture: <i>un geste</i>
to come on the stage: <i>entrer en scène</i>	to leave the stage: <i>quitter la scène</i>
to be of a cheerful disposition: <i>être d'un tempérament enjoué</i>	to be passionate: <i>être passionné</i>
to be temperamental: <i>être capricieux</i>	to be whimsical: <i>être fantasque</i>
to be moody: <i>être d'humeur changeante</i>	a failing: <i>un travers</i>
to be liable to: <i>être sujet à</i>	to be prone to: <i>avoir tendance à</i>

A FEW CHARACTER TRAITS

ambition (to be ambitious): *l'ambition*
awkwardness (to be awkward): *la maladresse*
bashfulness (to be bashful): *la timidité*
boastfulness (to be boastful): *la vantardise*
conceit (to be conceited): *la prétention*
confidence (to be self-confident): *la confiance en soi*
cowardice (to be cowardly): *la couardise*
daring (to be daring): *l'audace*
diffidence (to be diffident): *le manque d'assurance*
distrust (to be distrustful): *la méfiance*
double dealing (to be double dealing): *la duplicité, le double jeu*
earnestness (to be earnest): *le sérieux*
eccentricity (to be eccentric): *l'excentricité*
faithfulness (to be faithful): *la fidélité*
honesty (to be honest): *l'honnêteté*
hypocrisy (to be hypocritical): *l'hypocrisie*
jealousy (to be jealous): *la jalousie*

kindness (to be kind): *la gentillesse*
leniency (to be lenient): *l'indulgence*
loyalty (to be loyal): *la loyauté*
meanness (to be mean): *l'avarice*
nastiness (to be nasty): *la méchanceté*
pride (to be proud): *la fierté*
rashness (to be rash): *l'imprudence*
relief (to be relieved): *le soulagement*
selfishness (to be selfish): *l'égoïsme*
strength (to be strong): *la force, le courage*
sympathy (to be sympathetic): *la compassion*
unobtrusiveness (to be unobtrusive):
la discrétion
vanity (to be vain): *l'orgueil*
weakness (to be weak): *la faiblesse*
wisdom (to be wise): *la sagesse*

WHAT?

III. THE SCENE IN CONTEXT

BEFORE:

Is it suggested that **little time or**, on the contrary, **a long period of time** has elapsed since the previous scene or meeting of the characters on stage? What are the implications?

DURING:

Why are the characters on the stage together **at this moment**?

Is the audience supposed to know something that (some of) the characters do not know (= **dramatic irony**)?

If so, what colouring does it give to what is going on on stage?

AFTER:

Does the scene resolve some **suspense** or does it create it?

Is it simply a **buffer-scene** (a scene that provides **relief** between two tense scenes)? What elements allow us to say this?

Is there an **evolution, a progression**?

If so what words, phrases or attitudes mark the various phases of the development?

What effect does the scene have on the **audience**?

Is the **playwright** committed or are personal relationships the main interest of the play?

What is the **genre** of this play?

an act: *un acte*

a scene: *une scène*

to appear in Act I, scene 2: *figurer dans la scène ii de l'acte I*

the inciting moment: *le départ de l'action*

the plot: *l'intrigue*

a reversal of situation: *un renversement de situation*

a coup de théâtre: *un coup de théâtre*

the climax: *le noeud de la pièce*

the anticlimax: *la chute*

the resolution of the conflict: *la résolution du conflit*

a happy ending: *une fin optimiste*

the unravelling / outcome of the play: *le dénouement de la pièce*

to foreshadow the outcome: *anticiper le dénouement*

A FEW DEFINITIONS

catharsis (from a Greek word meaning *purification*): effect of the tragedy on the audience. It is the process by which strong and dangerous feelings are allowed to be experienced so that they lose their power

comic relief: passages that are meant to alleviate tension between tragic scenes

the climax of a play: moment of extreme tension

poetic justice: moment when justice is restored after a moment of upheaval

dramatic irony: when the audience knows more than one of the characters

pathos: quality of some scenes of high sentimentality

the tragic flaw: an error of judgement, a mistake, or a weakness in a hero which is the cause of a change in his fortune