

Important terms and concepts for Drama - Renaissance Period



aside
blank verse
catharsis
chorus
comedy
comic relief
couplet
dialogue
drama
Fate
iambic pentameter
irony
 verbal irony
 situational irony
 dramatic irony
meter
monologue
prose

rhyme
soliloquy
stage directions
tragedy
tragic flaw
tragic hero
verse
foreshadowing
beginning of scenes
ending of scenes
Shakespeare's character conventions:
 children
 crazy people
 sane characters
 important people
 mystical characters

In-depth Renaissance Drama Terms

Catharsis – Greek root *katharsis* "purging, cleansing,"

From Aristotle's *Poetics* "Tragedy, then, is an imitation of an action that is serious, complete, and of a certain magnitude... through pity and fear effecting the proper purgation of these emotions (Part 1, Section 5)."

Monologue vs. Soliloquy vs. Aside

Monologue - "mano-a-mano" literally meaning in Spanish "hand to hand," but often used in English to mean "man to man." Here you are the only one speaking and **others may or may not be present.**

Soliloquy – "solo" in Italian means alone, from Late Latin *soliloquium* meaning "a talking to oneself,"
Here you are the only one speaking and **you are alone and speaking to oneself**

Aside - Middle English "on the side" this is a small side note, not a speech like a **monologue** or **soliloquy**.

Fate - Often depicted as old women or witches in robes; the goddesses of Fate personified the inescapable destiny of man. Known as in Greek mythology as *Moirai* and Roman mythology as the *Parcae*. See example in Disney's *Hercules*.

Lachesis, the measurer, who chooses the lot in life one will have and measures off how long it is to be.

Clotho, the spinner, who spins the metaphorical thread of life.

Atropos, she who cannot be turned, who at death with her shears cuts the thread of life.



Macbeth Character List

Major Characters:

Macbeth – a man driven by _____ of the three witches.

Lady Macbeth - the wife of Macbeth, who is even more driven by _____ and _____ than her husband and who is the manipulative force behind the murder of _____.

King Duncan - The good King of _____ whom Macbeth, in his ambition for the crown, _____.

Malcolm - King Duncan's oldest son, rightful heir to the throne of Scotland, who flees to _____ after his father's _____.

Banquo - a general in Duncan's army and a close _____ of Macbeth prior to Macbeth's seizing the throne.

Macduff - a general in Duncan's army who becomes _____ of Macbeth's part in the king's murder.

The Three Witches - the personification of evil who prophesy that Macbeth will become _____, planting the seed of greed in his mind.

Minor Characters:

Donalbain - Duncan's youngest son who flees to Ireland after his father's murder and does not return.

Lennox - one of Duncan's nobles who accompanies Macbeth to Duncan's chambers after his murder. Lennox is suspicious of Macbeth and fearful for Scotland.

Ross - a Scottish noble and cousin to Macduff.

Siward - Earl of Northumberland and veteran military officer; he becomes an ally of Malcolm and Macduff and leads the first attack against Macbeth's forces.

Young Siward - the son of Siward who follows his father to fight against Macbeth in Scotland.

Seton - the only remaining officer in Macbeth's army that remains loyal to him.

Hecate - the queen of the witches.