Introduction to Drama Terminology

1. Drama: A unique form of literature that is identified by the distinct appearance of a script, with its stage directions, character parts, and division into acts; stories told mainly through dialogue and the actions of characters.
2. Playwright: Writer of plays
3. Producer: Raises money for the production, locates sponsors and hires the actors or actresses, director and technicians
4. Setting: Achieved mostly through italicized words; indicates and describes time, place, and general environment of a play; describes scenery, props and floor plan
5. Characterization: Achieved primarily through dialogue; achieved throughout the characters actions, opinions of that character by others, what the character says, and what the character looks like
6. Dialogue: Lines spoken by the characters’ assists in allowing plot and action to unfold on stage as characters interact
7. Monologue: An extended speech made by one person
8. Soliloquy: A monologue in which a character expresses private thoughts while alone on the stage
9. Plot: Sequence of events which involves character and conflict
10. Exposition: Achieved through dialogue; explains “how it all began” or what happened before the time cover in the play; indicates what the character is like and what situation has risen that creates the problem that must be solved.
11. Stage Directions: Notes to describe how the play is to be stages or performed; achieved through italicized words’ gives actors actresses directions like movement, tone of voice/voice inflection and feelings and emotions; helps with visualization when reading
12. Comedy: A drama that includes conflicts designed to amuse or entertain without arising deep emotional feeling usually results in a happy ending
13. Tragedy: A drama that deals with a serious subject involving persons of significance audience feels both pity and fear
14. Cue: A signal before or during a stage performance to prompt a person to action
15. Props: Stage *prop*erties used to enhance the reality of a dramatic performance.
16. Act: A major division of a play
17. Scene: Part of play resenting one episode; division of acts
18. Script: The written material of a dramatic presentation
19. Director: Interprets the drama ; one who manages or guides a productions beings together lighting, sound action, and staging for final productions
20. Cast: Actors and actresses in a play.
21. Tragic Hero/Tragic Flaw: Main character in a tragedy who suffers from a downfall due to tragic flaw such as pride or indecisiveness
22. Chorus: During the Elizabethan era in England, it was portrayed by one actor who spoke prologue and epilogue directly to the audience
23. Protagonist: The central character around whom the central conflict revolves
24. Antagonist: The character or force that opposes the protagonist
25. Farce: A kind of comedy that places flat, one dimensional character in ridiculous situations
26. Foil: A character who provides a strong contrast to another character
27. Aside: Dramatic device in which a character says something to the audience that the other characters are not supposed to hear.