



A112B MTA Definitions

1. **Act:** in drama refers to a major division within a theatrical work, such as a play, film, opera, ballet, or musical theatre. It is a complete section of a drama, made up of one or more.
2. **Scene:** represents a specific moment within an act. It encompasses all the action and dialogue that occur in a single location and time. It often changes when there is a shift in the play's setting or characters.
3. **Classics:** can refer to several related meanings: Literary Works of Ancient Greece and Rome: In the context of literature, classics are the works of ancient Greek and Roman writers. These include epic poems, plays, philosophical treatises, and historical accounts. Studying the classics provides insights into the culture, language, and thought of these civilizations. The concept of classics transcends time and culture, encompassing both ancient masterpieces and enduring contemporary creations. Whether in literature, art, or other domains, classics continue to inspire and enrich our understanding of human creativity and achievement.
4. **Comic Dynamism:** refers to the quality of movement, energy, and liveliness conveyed within the visual medium of comics. It involves the interplay of movement, composition, and engagement within the visual storytelling of comic. It is a play where different characters often talk at cross purposes, in slightly different registers or styles of speaking, and frequently with little or no understanding of the perspectives and desires of the characters they're talking to.
5. **Cultural Capital:** refers to the non-financial social assets that promote social mobility beyond economic means. It's a concept used to demonstrate the ways in which social status can be acquired through attributes other than wealth. There are three types of cultural capital: embodied (long-lasting dispositions of the mind and body), objectified (cultural goods like paintings, books, instruments), and institutionalized (recognition, like academic credentials).
6. **Drama:** It is a form of text that is designed to be performed in front of an audience, it contains dialogues and stage directions. It has further categories like comedy and tragedy. **For example:** Romeo & Juliet and Hamlet.
7. **Gender:** refers to the characteristics of women, men, girls, and boys that are socially constructed. This includes norms, behaviors, and roles associated with being a woman, man, girl, or boy, as well as relationships with each other. **For example:** Twelfth Night deeply explores the concepts of gender, masking, and roleplay through the characters of Viola and Cesario. After beginning to role play as the character Cesario, Viola is described to be an effeminate man by many in the cast; his voice is illustrated by Orsino to be "as the maiden's organ" and Cesario is "all semblative a woman's part".
8. **Blank verse:** is a literary device defined as unrhymed verse written in iambic pentameter. **For example:** 'If music be the food of love, play on' in Twelfth Night.



9. **Identification:** it refers to the audience identifying with a fictional character; however, it can also be employed as a narrative device whereby one character identifies with another character within the text itself.
10. **Figurative language:** the use of figurative language features makes the message of the poem clearer, and they can express the poem more.
11. **Personification:** is a literary technique writers use to add human qualities to non-human things. It helps the reader relate to and create a picture in their mind when **for example** we say, “stars dance”.
12. **Iambic Pentameter:** is a type of metrical line used in traditional English poetry and verse drama. The term describes a line consisting of five iambic feet (where an iamb is a metrical foot made up of one unstressed syllable followed by one stressed syllable). This means each line has ten syllables, with the stress pattern being unstressed-stressed. **An example** from Shakespeare is the line “If music be the food of love, play on,” where the bold syllables are stressed.
13. **Metaphor:** is a figure of speech that describes an object or action in a way that isn't literally true but helps explain an idea or make a comparison. For example: A metaphor states that one thing is another thing. It equates those two things not because they actually are the same, but for the sake of comparison or symbolism. If you take a metaphor literally, it will probably sound very strange (are there actually any sheep, black or otherwise, in your family?) Metaphors are used in poetry, literature, and anytime someone wants to add some color to their language. **For example:** Characters in Twelfth Night frequently use metaphorical language to talk about love and desire. Orsino is using music as a metaphor that feeds the appetite of love. 'If music be the food of love, play on'.
14. **Simile:** is a figure of speech that compares different things using the words (as or like). It is used in. **For example:** the priest's dialogue in the climax, when Olivia wants to know the truth about her marriage to Cesario 'actually it is Sebastian'.
15. **Literary Canon:** encompasses a collection of works that are considered representative of a particular period or genre in literature. In summary, the literary canon comprises works recognized for their enduring value, artistic contributions, and influence within a specific literary tradition or field. **For example:** Twelfth Night is considered one of the Literary Canon.
16. **Martin Droeshout:** the portrait of Shakespeare by Martin Droeshout adorns the title page of the 1623 First Folio, the first collected edition of Shakespeare's plays. **For example:** Droeshout's image (it's an engraving, a portrait that has been incised onto a flat surface to produce a template that could be reused) is in many ways a strange picture. Droeshout was only 15 years old when Shakespeare died in 1616, and 22 when the First Folio was published, so it's likely that this portrait wasn't drawn from the life with Shakespeare in the room but was instead copied from another image. Droeshout's image of Shakespeare is flat and without psychological depth.



- 17. Soliloquy:** is a literary device often used in drama where a character speaks their thoughts aloud, usually when they are alone on stage. It is a way for the character to express their innermost feelings, reflections, or motivations to the audience without addressing other characters. Soliloquies provide insight into a character's mind and can reveal important information about the plot or the character's development. **For example:** Viola's soliloquy in Twelfth Night, when she realizes that Olivia loves her, she starts to show her thoughts.
- 18. Antagonist:** is a character in a story or a drama who opposes or competes with the main character, known as the protagonist. The antagonist's role is often to create conflict and obstacles for the protagonist to overcome, driving the plot forward. **For example:** Malvolio is the main antagonist in Twelfth Night.
- 19. Anthropological approach:** is a method used in anthropology to study human societies and cultures. It involves examining various aspects of human life such as social structures, beliefs, practices, and customs to gain a deeper understanding of different cultures and societies. It uses this approach to explore how humans interact with each other, how they organize themselves, and how they make sense of the world around them. **For example:** 'Shakespeare's Festive Comedy' (1959), critic Barber takes an anthropological approach to comedy by stressing how Shakespeare's plays intersect with Elizabethan ideas of festivity and popular celebration. Barber argues that Shakespearean comedy is indebted to popular holiday customs such as the May games and the misrule that gives this play its title, 'Twelfth Night'.
- 20. Genre:** According to Oxford English Dictionary, genre is "A particular style or category of works of art; esp. a type of literary work characterized by a particular form, style, or purpose." The term genre usually refers to one of the three literary forms of fiction, drama, or poetry including (comedy, tragedy, romantic). **For example:** the genre of twelfth night is (romantic comedy).
- 21. Comedy:** is a genre of dramatic performance having a light or humorous tone that depicts amusing incidents and in which the characters ultimately triumph over adversity. For ancient Greeks and Romans, a comedy was a stage-play with a happy ending. **For example:** Twelfth Night is a romantic-comedy.
- 22. Concealment and disguise** are narrative elements commonly used in literature and drama to add complexity to characters and plotlines. Concealment involves characters hiding their true identities, intentions, or emotions from others within the story. This can create suspense, mystery, and tension as the audience, or other characters try to uncover the truth. Disguise, on the other hand, involves characters physically altering their appearance or assuming a different identity to deceive others. Disguise can be used for various purposes such as trickery, escape, or gaining information. Both concealment and disguise are often employed to explore themes of identity, deception, and perception in storytelling. **For example:** Twelfth Night is Concealment and disguise.
- 23. Conflict:** is the basic issue that leads to all other complications. There are basically two sorts of conflict: External conflict (Man versus man, Man Versus nature, Man versus society); or Internal conflict (Man versus himself). **For example:** Twelfth Night, the Major conflict that Viola is in love with Orsino, who is in love with Olivia, who is in love with Viola's male disguise, Cesario.



- 24. Cross-Dressing:** is the act of wearing clothing typically associated with a gender different from one's own. This practice can be for various reasons, such as theatrical performances, cultural traditions, self-expression, or personal identity exploration. It has been a common theme in literature, theatre, and various forms of media, often used to challenge traditional gender norms and explore themes of identity, gender roles, and societal expectations. **For example:** dressing as a man gives Moll agency, just as for Viola/Cesario, male clothing literally gives her a 'cover'. The dramatic attraction of the device is precisely that cross-dressed characters may be realised in different ways, from the girlish Cesario to the more boisterous image of Moll Cutpurse.
- 25. Ekphrasis:** is a literary device where a writer describes a work of visual art, such as a painting, sculpture, or photograph, within their literary work. This technique allows the audience to visualize the artwork through words and can evoke emotions, create vivid imagery, and deepen the meaning of the text. **For example:** Ekphrasis is commonly used in poetry and prose to explore the relationship between different art forms and to enhance the reader's sensory experience.
- 26. Genre:** According to Oxford English Dictionary, genre is "A particular style or category of works of art; esp. a type of literary work characterized by a particular form, style, or purpose." The term genre usually refers to one of the three literary forms of fiction, drama, or poetry include tragedy, comedy, romantic, mystery, and historical play. **For example:** the genre of Twelfth Night is romantic comedy.
- 27. A Festive Figure:** typically refers to a character or symbol associated with celebrations, holidays, or festive occasions. It often plays a significant role in cultural traditions and rituals, bringing joy, excitement, and meaning to special occasions. **For example:** Twelfth Night play's festive elements find clearest expression through the characters of Sir Toby and Sir Andrew, who stay up late drinking, dancing, and instigating mischief. Twelfth Night's title reminds us of the Christian festival which in earlier times was celebrated for twelve days with great merrymaking.
- 28. Inciting Incident:** is a key event in a story that sets the plot in motion by introducing the central conflict or problem that the protagonist must face. This incident disrupts the normal life of the main character and triggers the events that drive the narrative forward. The inciting incident is crucial for engaging the audience or readers and establishing the foundation for the story's development. **For example:** The Inciting Incident is when Viola has been rescued from the shipwreck and does not know if her brother, Sebastian, is alive. Because of this new information, Viola has the captain of the ship provide a boy disguise for her so she can become a servant to Duke Orsino.
- 29. Plot:** refers to the arrangement of the events in the story. What happens in a story and in what order. It is planned and logical and it has a beginning, middle, and end. The traditional story follows a pattern that has: 1. **Exposition**: details of setting and characters is revealed. 2. **Rising actions**: the build-up of events (complexities). 3. **Climax**: is the highest point of the story. 4. **Falling actions**: events that happen after the climax where problems start to be solved. 5. **Resolution**: the end and outcome of the story. All plots must have a conflict, either external (with another human being, nature or society) or internal (conflict within the self). **For example:** the major plot involves the courtship and love dilemmas of Duke Orsino, Lady Olivia, and Viola in Twelfth Night.



- 30. Pre-Raphaelite:** was a group of English painters, poets, and critics founded in 1848. They aimed to reform art by rejecting the mechanistic approach of the academic art establishment and drawing inspiration from the simplicity and intensity of medieval and early Renaissance art before the time of Raphael. **For example:** the Pre-Raphaelites sought to create works characterized by vivid colors, intricate detail, and a focus on nature, morality, and romanticism. Their art often featured themes from literature, mythology, and history, as well as a strong emphasis on beauty and emotional expression.
- 31. Protagonist:** is the main character in a story, novel, play, or movie. It is usually the central figure around whom the plot revolves and with whom the audience or readers are meant to empathize. They are often the character who faces challenges, undergoes character development, and drives the narrative forward. **For example:** Viola in Twelfth Night is the Protagonist.
- 32. Repression:** refers to the psychological defense mechanism by which an individual unconsciously blocks out thoughts, feelings, or memories that are perceived as threatening or anxiety-provoking. This process involves pushing these unwanted or distressing thoughts into the unconscious mind in order to avoid dealing with them consciously. It is a way for the mind to protect itself from emotional pain or conflict, but it can also lead to psychological issues if these repressed thoughts and feelings are not addressed or resolved. **For example:** Viola experiences repression as she cannot tell the duke that she loves him and cannot tell Olivia that she is a female.
- 33. Comedy:** is a genre of dramatic performance having a light or humorous tone that depicts amusing incidents and in which the characters ultimately triumph over adversity. For ancient Greeks and Romans, a comedy was a stage-play with a happy ending.
- 34. Romantic comedy:** often referred to as rom-com, is a genre of film, television, or literature that combines elements of romance and comedy. These works typically focus on a romantic relationship between two characters, often with a light-hearted and humorous tone. It often involves themes such as love, relationships, misunderstandings, and personal growth, and they usually end with a happy and satisfying resolution for the main characters. The genre is popular for its feel-good nature and its ability to entertain audiences with a mix of romance and humor. **For example:** the genre is Romantic comedy in Twelfth Night.
- 35. Tragedy:** refers to a branch of drama that treats in a serious and dignified style the sorrowful or terrible events encountered or caused by a heroic individual. By extension the term may be applied to other literary works, such as the novel. Although the word tragedy is often used loosely to describe any sort of disaster or misfortune. **For example:** Hamlet by Shakespeare is a tragedy.
- 36. Bildungsroman:** is a literary genre that focuses on the moral, psychological, and intellectual growth of a protagonist from childhood to adulthood. The term, which is of German origin, translates to "novel of formation" or "novel of education." In a Bildungsroman, the protagonist typically undergoes various challenges, experiences, and self-discoveries that contribute to their personal development and maturation. These novels often explore themes such as identity, self-realization, coming-of-age, and the individual's place in society. **Examples of Bildungsroman** include works like Charlotte Brontë's Jane Eyre (1847), Charles Dickens's David Copperfield.



- 37. Character:** is the main person in the story. Most of the time, our main attention is drawn to the main character (protagonist) and the other character that is in clash with the protagonist is called (antagonist). **For example:** in Jane Eyre, the protagonist is Jane Eyre, and the antagonist is Adèle.
- 38. Dialogue:** is a literary technique in which a conversation between two or more characters occurs, or a speech that is written down as part of a piece of narrative text. **For example:** in the novel 'Jane Eyre', Jane and Mr. Rochester had dialogues between the characters.
- 39. First person narrator:** the story is told by one of the characters in the story. It allows readers to see the events through the eyes of one character. This narration style is told through the use of (I or We). **For example:** the narrator in "David" Jane Eyre's decision to use a first-person narrator.
- 40. Midpoint:** is a pivotal moment in the narrative that occurs roughly halfway through the story. It marks a shift in the plot and often serves as a turning point where new developments unfold, and the stakes are raised for the characters. It can introduce new challenges, revelations, or conflicts that propel the story towards its climax. It is a crucial element in the structure of a story, helping to keep the audience engaged and moving the plot forward towards resolution. **For example:** When Mr. Mason is mysteriously attacked and a desperate Rochester summons Jane to help with the wound, the story shifts on several levels.
- 41. Narrative persona:** also known as narrative voice or narrative point of view, refers to the perspective from which a story is told. It encompasses the personality, attitudes, and beliefs of the narrator through which the events of the story are conveyed to the audience. The narrative persona can be first-person (where the narrator is a character in the story and uses "I" to tell the story), second-person (where the narrator addresses the audience as "you"), or third-person (where the narrator is an outside observer and uses "he," "she," or "they" to describe the characters). The choice of narrative persona can greatly influence how the story is perceived and experienced by the audience. **For example:** in Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë, Jane creates a particular impression about herself as she likes reading books.
- 42. Narrative structure:** refers to the framework or organization of a story, including how the plot is arranged, the sequence of events, and the way information is presented to the audience. It involves the way in which a narrative is crafted to engage the audience and convey meaning. Common elements of narrative structure include the **exposition** (introduction of characters and setting), **rising action** (development of the central conflict), **climax** (turning point of highest tension), **falling action** (resolution of the conflict), and **denouement** (conclusion and tying up of loose ends). The narrative structure plays a crucial role in shaping the overall impact and effectiveness of a story. **For example:** events of the novel Jane Eyre are assembled chronologically, from her childhood to her adulthood.
- 43. Narrator:** is the voice or character that tells a story in literature, film, or other forms of storytelling. It can be a character within the story (**first-person narrator**), an observer outside the story (**third-person narrator**), or even an unidentified entity conveying the events (**omniscient narrator**). The narrator's perspective shapes how the audience perceives the story and characters, influencing the way information is presented and interpreted. The choice of narrator can impact the tone, reliability, and depth of the narrative, playing a significant role in engaging the audience and conveying the author's intended message. **For example:** in Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë, written in a first point narrator.



- 44. Novel:** is a long work of fiction that tells a story through the use of characters, plot, setting, and themes. Novels are typically written in prose and can vary in length and complexity. They allow authors to explore a wide range of ideas, emotions, and experiences, often delving into the complexities of human relationships, society, and the human condition. Novels can belong to various genres, such as romance, mystery, science fiction, historical fiction, or literary fiction, and they offer readers a form of escapism, entertainment, and insight into different worlds and perspectives. **For example:** Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë is a novel deals with Jane's experiences through her life.
- 45. Novella:** is a work of fiction that is longer than a short story but shorter than a novel. It typically falls within the word count range of 20,000 to 40,000 words, although these boundaries can vary. Novellas allow authors to explore themes, characters, and plots in more depth than a short story but with more brevity and focus than a full-length novel. This form of storytelling often provides a concise and concentrated narrative that can be read in one sitting, making it a popular choice for exploring complex ideas and emotions within a more compact structure. **For example:** A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens.
- 46. Point of View:** is the angle from which a story is told: Omniscient narrator: the narrator knows everything about all the characters. He has unlimited access to characters' minds. Limited third person: knows only what the audience can see and hear. This view grants a writer more freedom than the first person, but less than third person omniscient. **For example:** in Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë, we determine that the narrator is using the first point of view because of the usage of the pronoun 'I'.
- 47. Pseudonym:** is a fictitious name used by an individual in place of their real name. Writers, artists, performers, and others may choose to adopt a pseudonym for various reasons, such as privacy, branding, or creating a distinct identity for their work. Pseudonyms can also be used to conceal the author's true identity or to separate different genres or styles of work. **For example:** the name Currer Bell as used by Charlotte Brontë in Jane Eyre.
- 48. Realism:** is a literary movement that emerged in the 19th century, emphasizing the depiction of everyday life and experiences with accuracy and detail. Realist writers sought to represent reality as faithfully as possible, focusing on the ordinary lives of common people, social issues, and the complexities of human nature. It often involves detailed descriptions, believable characters, and settings that reflect the social and political context of the time. This literary style aims to provide a truthful and objective portrayal of the world, challenging romanticized or idealized portrayals in literature. **For example:** Jane Eyre is often seen as a profoundly realistic novel, drawing on Charlotte Brontë's own experiences to paint a vivid picture of Jane's suffering at Lowood and her struggle against the narrow role that 19th century society allotted to women.
- 49. Third point narrator:** is a storytelling technique where a narrator who is not a character in the story tells the events from an outside perspective. The third-person narrator uses **pronouns** like "he," "she," or "they" to refer to the characters in the story. This narrative style allows for an objective viewpoint, providing insight into multiple characters' thoughts, feelings, and actions. It can be omniscient, limited, or objective, depending on the level of access the narrator has to the characters' inner thoughts and feelings. **For example:** "Lord of the Flies" by William Golding.



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