

**elements of drama**

The fundamental building blocks in making and responding to drama.

there have been various overlapping approaches to defining the Elements of Drama have been identified in the *The Curriculum Framework (1998)* refines this list further.

Aristotle <i>The Poetics</i> 5th Century BC	Haseman and O'Toole (1998)	National Statement on the Arts, Curriculum Corporation (1994)	Curriculum Framework Western Australia (1998)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action or Plot</li> <li>Character</li> <li>Thought/theme/ideas</li> <li>Language/ Diction</li> <li>Melody: Song or Dance</li> <li>Spectacle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The human context (situations, roles, relationships) <i>driven by</i></li> <li>dramatic tension <i>directed by</i></li> <li>focus <i>made explicit in</i></li> <li>place and time <i>through</i></li> <li>language and movement <i>to create</i></li> <li>mood and symbols <i>which together create the whole experience of</i></li> <li>dramatic meaning <i>All dramas are fictional models of real life human behaviour.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>role</li> <li>situation</li> <li>human interaction</li> <li>focus</li> <li>space and time</li> <li>language and text</li> <li>dramatic tension</li> <li>mood</li> <li>symbol and metaphor</li> <li>contrast</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>role and character</li> <li>situation and human interaction</li> <li>voice</li> <li>movement</li> <li>space and time</li> <li>language and texts</li> <li>symbol and metaphor</li> <li>audience</li> <li>dramatic tension</li> <li>dramatic forms, genres, styles and conventions</li> </ul>

*The Australian Curriculum: The Arts (2013)* identifies the following Elements of Drama.

<b>role, character and relationships</b>	<i>role and character:</i> identification and portrayal of a person's values and attitudes, intentions and actions as imagined relationships, situations and ideas in dramatic action
<b>situation</b>	<i>relationships:</i> the connections and interactions between people that affect the dramatic action
<b>voice and movement</b>	the setting and circumstances of the characters/roles actions
<b>voice and movement</b>	<i>voice:</i> using voice expressively to create roles, situations, relationships, atmosphere and symbols
<b>focus</b>	<i>movement:</i> using facial expression, posture and action in space and time expressively to create roles, situations, relationships, atmosphere and symbols
<b>tension</b>	directing and intensifying attention and framing moments of dramatic action
<b>space and time</b>	sense of anticipation or conflict within characters or character relationships or problems, surprise and mystery in stories and ideas to propel dramatic action and create audience engagement
<b>language, ideas, dramatic meaning, mood and atmosphere and symbol</b>	<i>space:</i> the physical space of the performance and audience, fictional space of the dramatic action and the emotional space between characters
<b>audience</b>	<i>time:</i> fictional time in the narrative or setting; timing of one moment to the next contributing to the tension and rhythm of dramatic action
	<i>language, ideas and dramatic meaning:</i> the choice of linguistic expression and ideas in drama used to create dramatic action
	<i>mood and atmosphere:</i> the feeling or tone of physical space and the dramatic action created by or emerging from the performance
	<i>symbol:</i> associations that occur when something is used to represent something else to reinforce or extend dramatic meaning
	experience of participating in the drama

The Elements of Drama work dynamically together to create and focus dramatic action and dramatic meaning. Drama uses movement and voice along with language and ideas to explore roles, characters, relationships and situations. Drama action is shaped by dramatic tension, space and time, mood and atmosphere to symbolically present and share human experiences for audiences.