**Drama**

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**Historical Background of the Term "Drama":**

The term "drama" originates from the Greek word "dran," which means "to do" or "to act." This reflects the essence of drama as a form of performance where actions and conflicts are enacted on stage. The concept of drama has evolved significantly over time, spanning different cultures and historical periods.

**Ancient Greek Drama**: The origins of Western drama can be traced back to ancient Greece, particularly the city-state of Athens. Greek drama began as part of religious festivals honoring Dionysus, the god of wine and fertility. The early form of Greek drama was known as "tragedy," and it was characterized by its exploration of serious themes and moral questions. Key figures in Greek tragedy include:

**Aeschylus**: Often considered the father of tragedy, he introduced the second actor and expanded the scope of dramatic storytelling. His notable works include the "Oresteia" trilogy.

**Sophocles**: Known for adding a third actor and enhancing the complexity of dramatic plots and characters. His famous plays include "Oedipus Rex" and "Antigone."

**Euripides**: His plays often focused on the inner lives of characters and explored themes of human suffering and divine intervention. Notable works include "Medea" and "The Bacchae."

Greek drama also included "comedy," which was initially satirical and lampooned contemporary figures and events. Aristophanes is a key playwright in this genre, known for his works like "Lysistrata" and "The Clouds."

**Roman Drama**: Roman drama was heavily influenced by Greek traditions, but adapted to Roman tastes and contexts. Early Roman comedies were written by Plautus and Terence, who adapted Greek plays and introduced elements of Roman life and humor. Roman tragedies, influenced by Greek models, were written by Seneca and often featured intense and violent themes.

**Medieval Drama**: During the Middle Ages, drama was primarily religious in nature, with plays performed in churches or public squares. This period saw the development of mystery plays, which depicted biblical stories, and morality plays, which conveyed moral lessons through allegorical characters. The "Mystery Play of the Creation" and "Everyman" are notable examples of medieval drama.

**Renaissance Drama(1558 to 1642)** : The Renaissance era, particularly in England, marked a revival of classical themes and forms. Playwrights like Christopher Marlowe and William Shakespeare brought new levels of sophistication to drama, incorporating complex characters, intricate plots, and a range of genres, from tragedy to comedy. The Elizabethan stage became a center for dramatic innovation, with the construction of iconic theaters such as The Globe.

**Modern and Contemporary Drama**: The evolution of drama continued through the 18th and 19th centuries with the rise of realism and naturalism, which focused on everyday life and social issues. Playwrights like Henrik Ibsen and Anton Chekhov explored new forms and themes, influencing the development of modern theater.

**In the 20th and 21st centuries**, drama has diversified further, encompassing various styles and movements, including existentialism, absurdism (e.g., Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot"), and postmodernism. Contemporary drama often addresses issues of identity, politics, and the human condition through innovative structures and diverse voices.