

## PROSE

**Prose** is a form of writing that uses ordinary language and sentences, without rhyme or poetic structure.

### 1-Types of Prose by **Purpose**

A• Narrative Prose – tells a story about events and characters.

Examples: novels, short stories.

B• Descriptive Prose – describes a person, place, object, or scene in detail so the reader can imagine it clearly.

C• Argumentative Prose – presents an opinion and tries to convince the reader using reasons and evidence.

Simple way for students to remember

- Narrative → tells a story
- Descriptive → describes something
- Argumentative → tries to persuade or convince

### 2. Types of Prose by **Length** (Form of Narrative)

A• Novel – a long fictional story with many characters and a complex plot.

B• Novella – a fictional story shorter than a novel but longer than a short story.

C• Short Story – a very brief fictional story with few characters and events.

### 3. Types of Prose by **Content**

#### A. Fiction (imagined stories)

1. Fable – a short story that teaches a moral lesson.
2. Allegory – a story where characters represent ideas such as hope or pride.
3. Parable – a very simple story that teaches a moral or religious lesson.
4. Romance – a story mainly about love and relationships.

## B. Non-Fiction (real stories)

1. Autobiography – a person writes the story of his or her own life.
2. Biography – someone writes the life story of another person.



Simple way for students to remember

- Novel / Novella / Short Story → classification by length.
- Fable / Allegory / Parable / Romance → types of fictional stories.
- Autobiography / Biography → real life writing (non-fiction).

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## Drama المسرح

**Drama** is a form of literature written to be performed on stage through dialogue and action.

### 1. The Development of Drama: **Ancient Greece** and **Medieval England**

Drama began in **Ancient Greece** as part of religious festivals honoring the god Dionysus. Greek playwrights such as **Sophocles** developed tragedy, which explored the conflict between human action and fate, as seen in Oedipus Tyrannus.

In **Medieval England**, drama **grew out** of church ceremonies and religious teaching. Over time, performances moved from churches to public spaces and focused on biblical stories and moral lessons.

### 2- Difference between **Miracle** and **Mystery** plays

Miracle plays and mystery plays are forms of **medieval religious** drama performed in Medieval England to teach Christian beliefs. Mystery plays present stories from the Bible, such as the Creation or the life of Christ, and were often performed in cycles by craft guilds during festivals. Miracle plays, however, focus on the lives and miracles of saints and emphasize faith and divine power.

| Miracle Plays                                     | Mystery Plays                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • Based on the lives and miracles of saints.      | • Based on stories from the Bible.                                                |
| • Show examples of faith and divine intervention. | • Present events such as the Creation, the life of Christ, and the Last Judgment. |
| • Focus on saints rather than biblical history.   | • Often performed in cycles by craft guilds (group of workers).                   |

## 1. Types of Drama by Theme and Historical Development

**A. Plays of Men and Fate** – shows how human life is controlled by fate or destiny.

Example: Oedipus Tyrannus – Sophocles.

**B. Drama of Two Worlds** – shows the conflict between the human world and the spiritual or supernatural world.

Example: Everyman.

**C. Drama of Human Greatness** – focuses on great individuals whose ambition or actions lead to success or destruction.

Example: Macbeth – William Shakespeare.

**D. Drama of Human Ambition** – shows how the desire for knowledge or power can lead to moral conflict and downfall.

Example: Doctor Faustus – Christopher Marlowe.

## 2. Types of Drama by Genre (Form of the Play)

**A. Comedy** – a play that entertains the audience and ends happily.

**B. Tragicomedy** – a play that combines tragic and comic elements but ends happily.

C• **Tragedy** – a serious play where the main character faces suffering or death.

D• **Melodrama** – a play that uses exaggerated emotions and sensational events.

E• **Farce** – a play that creates laughter through exaggerated characters and silly situations.

### **Examples/ Plays**

#### **Name of the Play: Oedipus Tyrannus**

**Type:** A Play of Men and Fate. **Genre:** Tragedy

**Name of Dramatist:** Sophocles

**Oedipus** (king of Thebes) becomes famous after solving the Sphinx's riddle and saving the city. When he was born, his parents **Laius** (former king of Thebes) and **Jocasta** (queen of Thebes) heard a prophecy that their son would kill his father and marry his mother, so they left him to die as an infant. He survives and grows up in another kingdom. Later, on his way to Thebes, he unknowingly kills Laius during a quarrel on the road. Years later, while searching for the cause of a plague, he discovers he killed Laius and married Jocasta. The play shows a drama of fate, where human beings cannot escape their destiny or fate.

#### **Important Literary Points in Oedipus Tyrannus**

##### **1- The main theme = Fate vs Free Will**

Oedipus tries to escape the prophecy but destiny controls his life.

##### **2- Tragic Hero**

Oedipus (king of Thebes) is noble and intelligent but his pride and determination lead to his downfall.

## Shakespeare's Life as a Dramatist

William Shakespeare was one of the greatest English playwrights in literature. He wrote about 38 plays, including tragedies, comedies, and histories. Famous examples of his plays include *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, and *Romeo and Juliet*. His period is often called the **Golden Age** of English drama because theatre became very popular and many important plays were written and performed.

### **Name of the Play: Macbeth**

**Type:** A Drama of Human Greatness. **Genre:** Tragedy

### **Name of Dramatist: William Shakespeare**

**Macbeth** (a brave Scottish general) meets three witches who predict that he will become king. Encouraged by **Lady Macbeth** (his ambitious wife), he murders **King Duncan** (the king of Scotland) while Duncan is visiting his castle. After becoming king, Macbeth fears losing power and kills **Banquo** (his friend and fellow soldier) because the witches say Banquo's sons will be kings. His rule becomes violent and unstable. Finally, **Macduff** (a Scottish nobleman) kills Macbeth in battle, and **Malcolm** (Duncan's son) restores order by becoming the rightful king of Scotland. The play shows the drama of human greatness, where a great hero is destroyed by his own ambition and desire for power.

### **Important Literary Points in Macbeth**

#### **1. Main Theme =Ambition**

Macbeth's desire for power leads him to murder and destruction.

2- **Tragic Hero:** Macbeth (a Scottish general) is brave and noble at first, but ambition becomes his **tragic flaw**.