

PENANG SANGAM HIGH SCHOOL
P.O.BOX 44, RAKIRAKI
SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

WEEK 17

Year/Level: 11 **Subject:** ENGLISH

Strand	WRITING AND SHAPING
Sub Strand	EN. 11.3.1.1: Compose various text types to communicate ideas for a targeted audience and for a variety of purposes.
Content Learning Outcome	Recall the literary elements of drama. comprehend the setting describe act one and scene plot.

[Paste these notes in the drama section of your literature book]

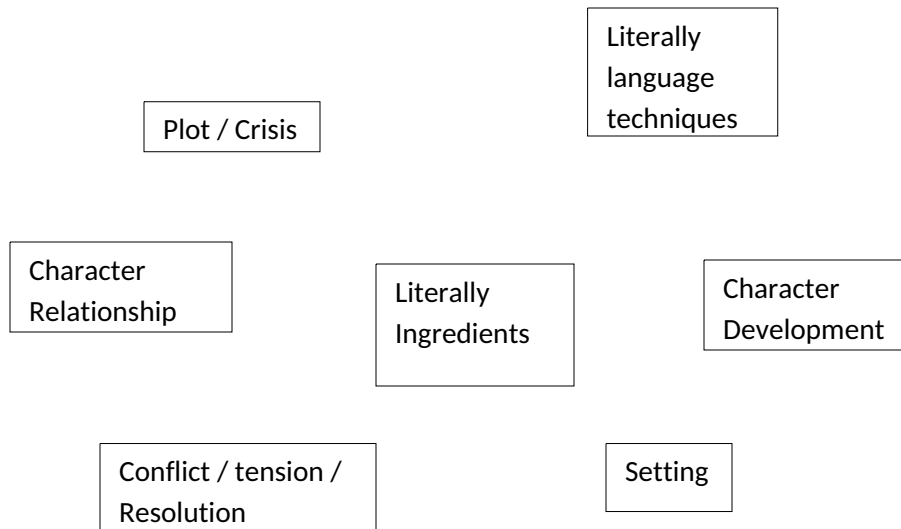
LITERATURE

GENRE: DRAMA

What is Drama?

Our lives are full of dramas, tensions, conflicts, excitement and action full of life experiences. A study of drama provides opportunities for performances of literacy study. Our focus is on the written play script. When you study a text, you can develop a better understanding of characters, conflicts, themes and the social background.

How is drama similar to other forms of literature?



Reading a play script

It is a writtem script which gives a play the reminiscence which is required for in depth study. When watching a play, we pick up the story from the dialogue (what the character say) and the action (what happens) when reading a play script. We can read a dialogue but we must try to visualise the action for ours.

Often a play will show a character or group of characters at a time of stress or conflict.

By seeing how the characters deal with the conflict to gain insights into those personalities, their strengths, weakness and values.

Conflict

How important is conflict within a play?

A play depends on conflicts and tensions to involve its audience. Without conflict, there is no dramatic tension. Dramatic tensions which are experienced in our lives are the products of some type of conflicts.

These conflicts may be:

Internal

- a) A conflict with an individual often emotional turmoil.
- b) Or a struggle with conflict or values.

External

- a) Conflicts between individual
- b) Between groups in societies
- c) Or conflict produced by people struggling against circumstances.

In traditional terms a play can be divided into four parts;

1. The **exposition**, the solution is set up and the central conflict is expressed.
2. More details are added during the completion, the **action rising** at the play.
3. The main **climax** (crises point) is reached when the tension peaks and the central conflict is confronted.
4. After the main climax, the **action is falling** as the problems are revealed; the final stage is known as **resolution**.

Title: “The Pohutukawa Tree”

Playwright: Bruce Mason

Background and Setting

--The play is set in Te' Parenga in New Zealand against the background of deteriorating race relationship between the Maori and Pakeha.

--They have been living together for hundred years but their hatred for each other intensifies. --
The play is set after World War II. Due to the industrialization of the 20th century and particularly after the war, there was a fondness of wealth and material goods.

Summary

Act 1-Scene 1

Setting:

- The story is set in TeParenga in New Zealand.
- This is a Maori Place after World War II in 1947. There is only one Maori family. The Pohutukawa Tree is situated in front of the porch.
- It is a rural area surrounded by Orchard Farm.

Plot:

- Queenie Mataria, a naïve and inexperienced Maori girl of 17, is influenced by Roy McDowell a Pakeha of about the same age. As he tries to seduce her, there is a conflict between Queenie's pride and strict bringing up and Roy's charm and offer of an exciting new world.
- Reverend Sedgwick arrives and talks with Queenie. He tells Aroha that her tribe has asked him to persuade her to sell the land and join them in Tamatea and Aroha explains why she will not.
- Aroha's son, Johnny, arrives excited about the horse he has been riding.
- Mrs. Atkinson and Sylvia arrived and they all talk about the wedding. Aroha reluctantly allows Queenie to accept some of Sylvia's cast off clothes.
- Aroha and Mrs. Atkinson talk about her land.

Act One- Scene Two

Setting

- The setting of this scene portrays the wedding ceremony of Sylvia and George.
- The ceremony takes place in a tent marked with blue and white striped, hung with six feet poles at the corner and at the center by a pole making a tall blue and white cover.
- The tent is cramped with guest and the burning sun throws the heat in the tent. The table is decorated with drinks.
- On the other side the bride and the groom are standing beside the official table.

Plot:

- Speakers at the wedding are revealed. Pakeha's attitude towards the Maoris and the land is shown.
- The wedding ceremony finishes with Aroha's Maori wedding song that talks about love and happy future together.
- Johnny gets drunk causing Aroha embarrassment.
- Queenie and Roy arrange to meet.
- The scene also reveals how Tom Atkinson, Clive's father get the Maori land.

Act Two- Scene 1

Plot:

- It is about a month later; Johnny is drawing Robin Hood pictures and drinking whiskey.
- He starts playing with the Taraha. When Aroha arrives home she takes it away and informed him that Sylvia has asked for her horse.
- Johnny is drunk and questions why he has to depart from the horse that he loves.
- Queenie comes home and is pregnant.

- It is decided that she would marry Roy but he refuses saying that she's too young and also from a different culture background, i.e. Maori, whom his parent would not accept.
- Aroha decides that Queenie will go to Tamatea to deliver the baby. Johnny gets angry and rides off with the "Taraha".

Act Two: Scene Two

- Mr. Atkinson comes looking for Johnny and his daughter's horse, 'Jezebel'.
- Queenie is ready to go to Tamatea and is waiting for her mother.
- Mrs. Robinson comes looking for Aroha and Mr. Atkinson to inform that Johnny has wrecked the church and was in prison for the night.
- He also tells Aroha that Johnny has been granted bail but will have to appear in court.
- Aroha sees off Queenie and not promising to see her again.
- Aroha questions Johnny about his behavior and he tells her that he loves drinking whiskey and also that the "Light of the World" has not been enough to bind their wound and that is why he had to put at the light of the world.
- He also tells Aroha that he is just a Maori boy that wants to live his own way; easy and quiet.

Act Three

Setting

- It is set in the late afternoon after three months the branch from the Pohutukawa tree is hanging much lower on the porch.
- Mrs. Atkinson is seen sweeping the porch wearing a print dress and a handkerchief around her hair. On the table are old flowers in the vase and new one ready trimming.
- Doctor Lomas comes out of the book room door carrying a medical bag.

Plot

- Aroha is sick, not medically but emotionally and mentally.
- Doctor Lomas explains to Mrs. Atkinson using the examples of a machine why Aroha is sick, he also tells her that medicine is not the answer to Aroha's sickness.
- He further explains that Aroha has lost her will to live and that she is beyond the reach.
- Reverend Sedgwick comes to see Aroha with Johnny.
- He tells Mrs. Atkinson that Queenie is married and has got six children of all kind.
- He also describes the "NgatiRaukura" tribe and their lifestyle in Tamatea.
- He says that the tribe wants Aroha to sell the land and join them as their queen.
- They also discussed the term in "Christianity" and Aroha's land and then sell it.
- Johnny pleads with his mother to sell the land and go and live with him in Tamatea,
- Aroha refuses. Upon asked by Sedgwick she tells him she doesn't want Johnny to see her die.
- Aroha tells Sedgwick that his "cross" has put her people down, living the world in darkness with the flickering disgrace and shame.
- Sedgwick tells her that it is Aroha who has cheated the God and not the other way round.
- Aroha dies peacefully in her own house saying that **"I will die true to my past... I go to Whetumarama and the gods of my people."**

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