

# What Is Drama?

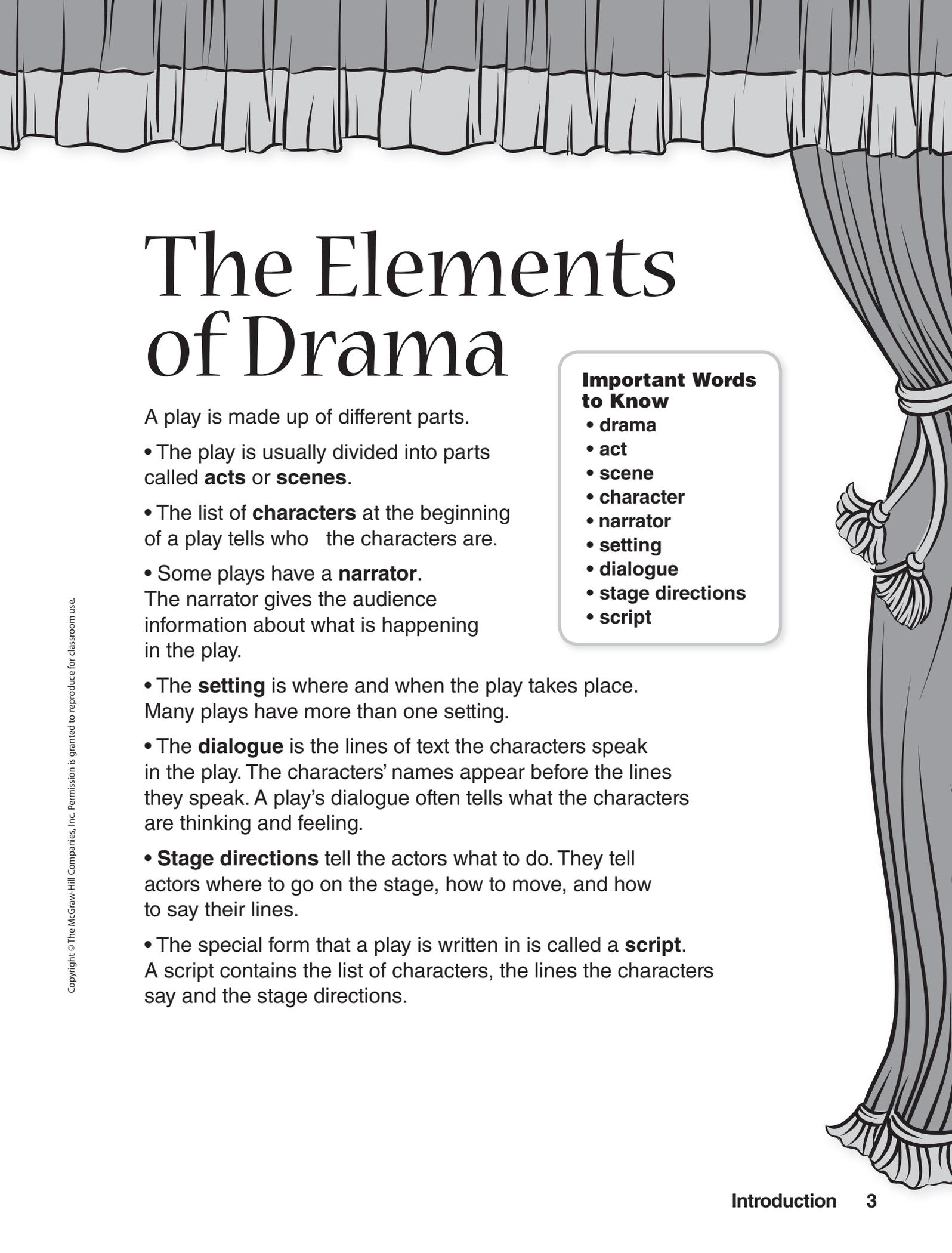
**Drama** is a story that is acted out in front of people or an audience. A drama can be a play, a puppet show, a song, or a dance story that a person on a stage performs for a group of people.

*Have you ever pretended to be someone else? Have you ever acted out a story with a friend? Have you ever gone to see a show or a play? All of these are examples of drama.*

*Plays are written in a special form that helps you to picture what is happening on the stage.*



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# The Elements of Drama

A play is made up of different parts.

- The play is usually divided into parts called **acts** or **scenes**.
- The list of **characters** at the beginning of a play tells who the characters are.
- Some plays have a **narrator**. The narrator gives the audience information about what is happening in the play.
- The **setting** is where and when the play takes place. Many plays have more than one setting.
- The **dialogue** is the lines of text the characters speak in the play. The characters' names appear before the lines they speak. A play's dialogue often tells what the characters are thinking and feeling.
- **Stage directions** tell the actors what to do. They tell actors where to go on the stage, how to move, and how to say their lines.
- The special form that a play is written in is called a **script**. A script contains the list of characters, the lines the characters say and the stage directions.

## Important Words to Know

- drama
- act
- scene
- character
- narrator
- setting
- dialogue
- stage directions
- script