

# **Drama**

## **Stock characters in Melodrama**

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## Overview

Melodrama characters were not meant to be particularly life-like, instead they were intended to have identifiable types of personalities – these types were referred to as ‘stock characters’ and are known as

- **Heroes** - handsome, strong, brave, honest and reliable. Status - middle class or higher
- **Heroines** - beautiful, courageous, innocent and vulnerable. Status - middle class or higher
- **Villains** - cunning, without morals, dishonest, cruel and evil. Status - middle class or higher
- **Villain’s accomplice** - usually provides comic relief because he is a bumbling sidekick. Status - lower class
- **Faithful servant** - also provides comic relief, and also does the dirty work. He usually discovers evidence against the villain. Status - lower class
- **Maid servant** - a female character who is lively and who flirts with the faithful servant. Status - lower class.

## Approaching characters in melodrama

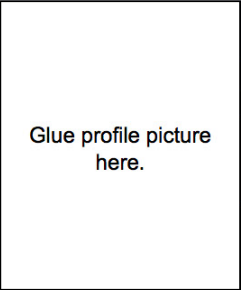
Acting in melodrama is very different to other theatrical styles and forms, a good melodrama requires the following:

- **Exaggeration.** This acting style requires strong facial expressions, large movements and gestures, and clear and well-projected delivery of lines. Melodrama actors concentrated more on showing emotions rather than feeling them. The actor also overemphasised words or syllables they thought essential to their character.
- **Audience interaction.** Actors encourage audience interaction by improvising lines and telling topical jokes and would help the audience to boo or hiss at the villain.
- **Asides.** An aside is where any character speaks directly to the audience to reveal a thought or plan that is kept secret from the rest of the other characters. The actor’s delivery of the aside should instil a feeling of secrecy and draw the audiences focus away from the other action and onto their ‘secret’.

## Learning tasks

### Social media profile

1. Complete the social media profile on the following page for ONE stock character discussed above or go to [Classtools.com](https://www.classtools.net/) and create a [Fakebook profile](#).
2. Be prepared to be hot-seated as your character by the class.



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Information

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Current City:

Birthday:

Likes:

Dislikes:

Friends

Friend name:

Friend name:

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Attach:     

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