



Acting 1 & 2 (Introductory Acting)

Script Analysis

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Learning Objective:

The student will identify and analyze the dramatic structure of a play.

Bell Ringer:

Harvey was first produced in 1944. What major event was taking place at that time? Why do you think people flocked to comedies during this period?

Lesson Steps:

When you are cast in or directing a show, it is imperative that you understand the play and the intentions of the playwright. One component of script study is breaking the script down to its structural components or the dramatic structure. In this unit, we will take the play *Harvey* and break it down into its structural components.

These are the structural components of a play:

Exposition: the beginning part of a plot that provides important background information – where, when, who, etc.

Preliminary Situation: the explanation of events that occurred before the action of a play.

Protagonist: the main character of a play and the character with which the audience identifies with strongly.

Antagonist: a person, situation, or the protagonist's own inner conflict that is in opposition to the protagonist's goals.

Inciting Incident: the event that sets in motion the action of a plot.

Rising Actions: the middle part of a plot, consisting of complications and discoveries that create conflict.

Climax: the turning point in a plot when conflict comes to an emotional crest; the point at which the rising action becomes the falling action.

Falling Actions: the series of events following the climax of the plot.

Denouement: the final resolution of the conflict in a plot.

Practice:

I have attached the play Harvey. Read Act I, Scene 1 (pages 1 through 7)

Harvey by Mary Chase

While reading the play answer the following questions:

1. Exposition – What day of the week?
What time of day?
What season?
What room of the house are they in?
What event is taking place?
How are the characters related?
2. Preliminary Situation – What event do Veta and Myrtle talk about that happened before the play begins?
3. Inciting Incident – Veta decides she is going to do something. She tells this to Myrtle. Can you find what Veta says that is going to get the plot moving?
4. Protagonist – Who is the kind soul that the audience will take to?
5. Antagonist – Who is going to work against the protagonist and try to change him?