

What is MELODRAMA?



‘A play full of extravagant action and emotion’

Research Melodrama

Complete the following tasks:

- Watch a clip of Melodrama on YouTube and write five comments about what you saw.
- Collect at least five pictures that show Melodrama in action.
- Read about Melodrama and write down five facts you've learnt.

What is Melodrama?

A play characterised by stereotypical characters, exaggerated emotions, and simple conflict.

A play marked by "good guys" vs. "bad guys".

A play which provides much action, suspense and tension but contains the conventional "happy ending."

Originally a term for musical theatre. By the nineteenth century the meaning changed to describe a suspenseful drama featuring all-good heroes and all-bad villains.

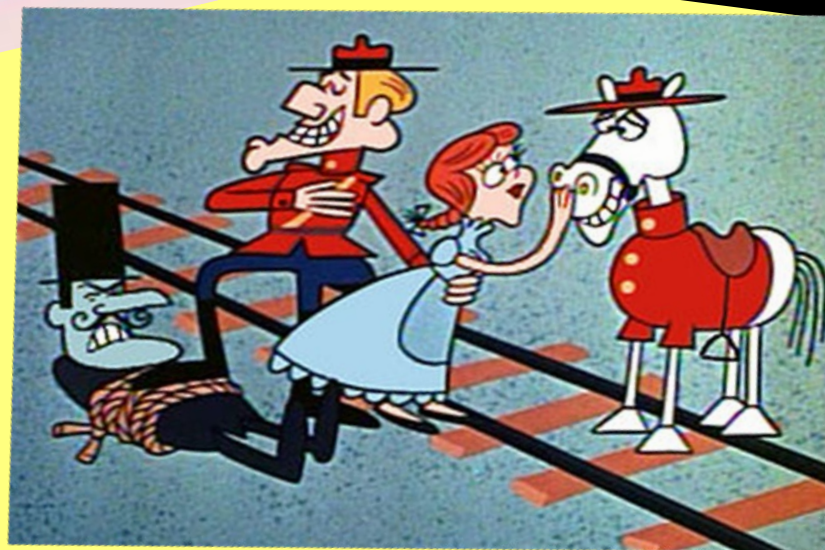
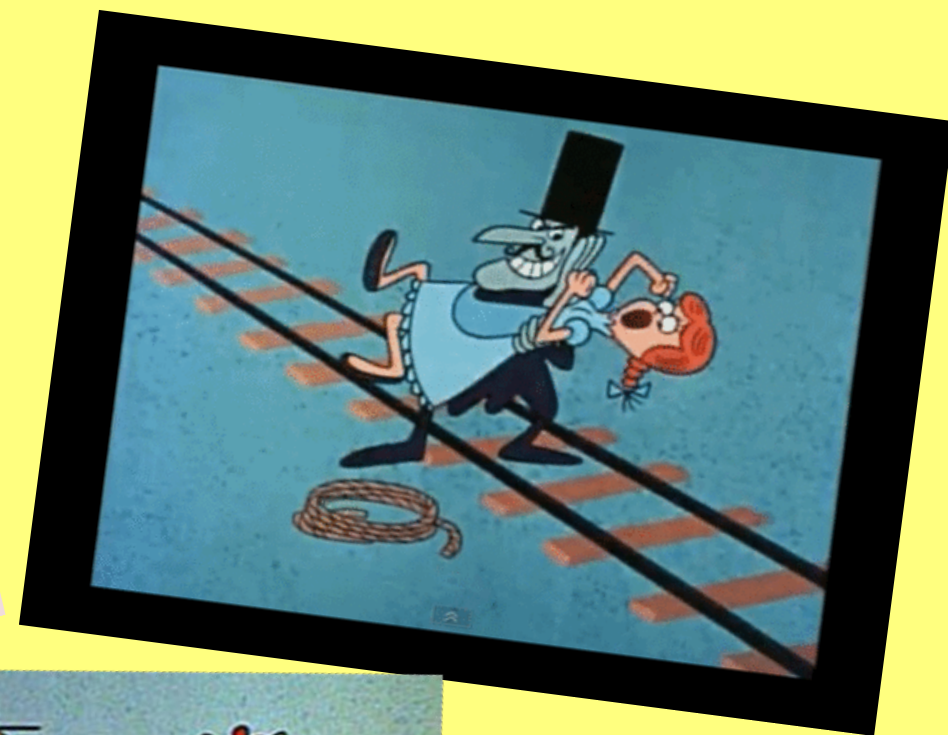
Stock Characters of Melodrama

- ‘Types’ rather than believable, well-rounded characters.
- Over the top, exaggerated characters.
- Similar to pantomime characters.



Let's look at these characters more closely

- Watch the clip on the slide below and make notes on what you observe.
- Look for more examples on YouTube – see what you can find!



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Npfi0UZL2ow>

Noble Hero

Falls for the heroine.

Defeats the villain.

Brave and strong.

Cold-blooded villain

Evil without cause.

Wants to be with the heroine.

Schemes and plots.

Villain's Side-kick

Controlled by the Villain and not very bright.

Long suffering heroine

Pure and innocent.

Has had a difficult life.

Finds happiness at the end.

Comic Character

Lower class.

Tries to help the hero/heroine.

Well-meaning but not very bright.

Cruel Stepmother

Doesn't like her step daughter.

Bossy and controlling.

Schemes with the villain.

Weak Father

Not very confident.

Wants the best for his daughter.

Controlled by the Cruel Stepmother.

Write your own scene. . .

- In order to develop your understanding of Melodrama and the stock characters further, write your own short Melodrama. You could use the slide below to help get you started!
- Illustrate the characters involved in your scene.



Practice saying the lines of these three stock characters out loud in a melodramatic way. Add suitable, exaggerated actions too!

Hero: I'll save you my darling!

Heroine: I thought I would never see you again!

Villain: My evil plan cannot fail!