English – Kirk Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Drama Terminology**

**Drama** is a literary form written in prose or verse that reveals life and character through dialogue and action (speech and gesture). Drama is meant to be performed.

**Tragedy** is a serious play in which the central character (or characters) is (or are) overcome and defeated by circumstances; such circumstances may or may not be determined by other characters.

**Comedy** is a play that turns out successfully for the principal character (or characters). (Many people apply the term to any play that makes the audience laugh).

**Plot** is a sequence of incidents in which each event is caused by the events before it and in turn helps to cause the ones that follow it. (nb: A **plot** differs from a **story**, which is merely a number of incidents happening one after another.)

**Situation** is the predicament in which the characters find themselves at the play’s opening – the background of events.

**Conflict** is a device that is most essential to the structure of a play. Usually a character wants to accomplish something, but is opposed by one or more of: 1) another character, 2) circumstances, 3) their own thoughts and attitudes.

**Complication** is an issue arising from the reaction of one character to another, or to circumstances, which makes the conflict even harder to settle.

**Suspense** is a state or situation in which our curiosity is aroused enough to make us want to know what will happen next. The intensity of our interest is determined by our sympathy with or dislike of the characters, and by the amount of uncertainty about their fate.

**Crisis** is a point in the plot at which a definite decision on a course of action must be taken. The emotional reaction is suspense. There may be several crises in a play.

**Uimax** is the crisis at which the main conflict of the play is settled usually near the end. Just before the climax occurs, suspense reaches its highest peak.

**Character** can mean: 1) a person within a play

2) the personality of such as person