

WEEK THREE LESSON

FUNCTIONS OF DRAMA

1. Education (teaching)

Drama plays a very educative role in our lives. First of all, drama exposes our minds to various characters. We may have characters such as a nagging wife, a stubborn child, a cheerful student, a hardworking son, a careless king etc. Through the actions, reaction and the reward that these characters experience, we learn more about life. In a drama we see the results of certain actions and reactions. We learn about the things that will make our lives better as well as the things that will affect us badly in life. Also, while acting a drama, we are exposed to role that we will eventually play in life. In this way drama educates us to prepare for future responsibilities. For instance, a child that is acting the role of a father is actually learning how a father should take care of a home and things he shouldn't do as a father. Many times, drama prepares our minds ahead of some dangers. Having acted a role where you faced a certain kind of danger and conquered it, it is likely that you will overcome such a situation when you meet them in real life.

2. Information

Drama is a very useful source of disseminating information. In religious places of worship, drama is used to inform people about dangers in involving in certain habits. In media, drama is used in advertisement of products. When a product is to be advertised, a drama is put up which finally ends in telling the public the name, uses, durability and other things about the products. Government agencies also use drama to pass information to the public. For instance, dramas have been put up in radio and television to discourage the following: indiscriminate littering of waste products in the society, discrimination against person who contacted HIV/AIDS, rape, drug abuse, human trafficking, etc. Also, through drama, we are exposed to various kinds of

information. By watching a drama, one can learn how traditional marriage is conducted, how certain foods are cooked, names of some cities or countries, and culture of other people. Drama also exposes us to past history.

3. Entertainment

Drama is usually a source of fun. When we watch a drama presentation, it makes us happy and excited. This is why drama can serve as recreation. Several dramas have comic elements that make us laugh so profusely. Actors have a way of coming up with speeches and actions that entertain us. Many times, after witnessing a certain drama, the memory of it remains on our mind for days.

4. Therapy

Drama is a source of healing to those who have mental illnesses. This is because drama has the ability to calm the mind. A high-blood pressure patient will naturally feel relaxed after witnessing a comic drama. Drama also helps to heal our minds and bodies after a long period of stress. Even those extreme mental cares receive healings through a drama performance. These are explored more in countries such as America, Britain, Germany, Italy, Spain and so on. Recently, in our country, comedians are becoming more valuable as they use the television, radio and social media to promote comedies.

5. Development

Drama develops confidence in children when they stand in front of other children to perform. It boosts their morale. This will help them later in tackling life challenges.

Drama also help children to develop team spirit. This is because drama usually involve more than one person. The actor and actresses will have to learn how to favourably interact with one another for a fruitful drama production. They learn to mix up with other person, develop trust in them and relate with them more cordially.

It reduces shyness in children. Drama also help children in developing abilities such as public speaking and public performance. Many children discover their talents by engaging in drama presentation.

Summary

The functions of drama Education, information, entertainment, therapy and development

Review Questions

List and explain the five functions of drama