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DEPARTMENT: ARTS EDUCATION

COURSE: INTRODUCTION TO DRAMA

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THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE DRAMA

MEDIEVAL DRAMA

Medieval Drama, which flourished in the 15th century and paved the way for the great Elizabethan theatre, developed out of liturgical ceremonies. It is in the Church, in fact, and in its rituals that we can find the origin of medieval plays. The Clergy had always tried to teach to unlettered people the chief events of the Christian religion through dramatic performances. In Italy, for instance, St. Francis used to represent Christ's nativity with a real child in the cradle and real people and animals around. Even more impressive were Easter performances. After the use of music was introduced into churches, in the 6th century, and words were later fitted to the melodies, a dramatic dialogue began to take place in the form, at first, of an alternation of chants between the priest and the choir. Little by little processional and scenic effects were added, which, by increasing dramatic action, also required more complicated stage properties. Medieval Drama, which flourished in the 15th century and paved the way for the great Elizabethan theatre, developed out of liturgical ceremonies. All this give life to the gradual evolution from liturgical drama to Miracles and Mystery Plays.

The Medieval period also known as the middle ages, lasts from 5th to 15th century. Medieval period was the period between the middle ages and the dark ages. When the church was the centre of everything. The medieval theatre focused on religious subjects. The medieval drama had been an amateur endeavor presented either by the clergy, monks or members of the various trade guilds. The performers were not professional actors, but ordinary citizens who

acted only in their spare time. With the centralization of the population in the cities during the latter part of the Middle Ages, the interest in secular drama began to increase. When the church was the Centre of everything. The medieval theatre focused on religious subjects. The medieval drama had been an amateur endeavor presented either by the clergy, monks or members of the various trade guilds. The performers were not professional actors, but ordinary citizens who acted only in their spare time. With the centralization of the population in the cities during the later part of the Middle Ages, the interest in secular drama began to increase.

RENAISSANCE DRAMA

Renaissance Drama is the period of rebirth. It was a period that marked the rediscovery of past heritage, an age which epitomized in the rediscovery of Greek and Roman. The intellectual basis of the Renaissance was its own invented version of humanism, derived from the rediscovery of classical Greek philosophy, such as that of Protagoras, who said that "Man is the measure of all things." Renaissance thinkers often tried to dissociate themselves from the Dark Ages, Medieval period, believing that the medieval and the renaissance are two different ages that have no single things in common.

Due to the peculiarities of certain church celebrations, the medieval drama started declining as the catholic church withdrew its support from them because they said it weakened the church. The Protestants regarding it as a tool for propagation of the Catholic doctrine also made Queen Elizabeth II to ban it. Medieval drama and renaissance drama are too distinct periods in history. It belongs to the middle ages and centered on concepts such as religion, Chivalry, and Courtly love. Renaissance drama involved religion, historical and social issues. It explored religion in a different approach. It was written in early modern English. Renaissance drama, which lasted from approximately 1500-1700, was the rebirth of interest in theatre across Europe. In fact, the Renaissance drama introduced many of the elements that were not available in the Middle Ages: indoor theatres, an arched stage, a curtain dropped between scenes, more elaborate set design. All of these changes were implemented during the Renaissance. More importantly, however, the purpose of drama transitioned from stories told by the Church to stories made primarily for entertainment for both royalty and commoners.

MEDIEVAL DRAMA	RENAISSANCE DRAMA
<p>Origin:</p> <p>The Medieval Drama was first originated in Europe.</p> <p>The source of the drama was bible.</p>	<p>Origin:</p> <p>The Renaissance Drama was first originated in Europe. its most important developments started when Elizabeth I was Queen of England</p> <p>They grew out of the established medieval tradition of mystery and morality plays.</p>
<p>Target</p> <p>The main target in these plays was on one's character i.e. good, evil, sin, etc</p>	<p>Target</p> <p>The main target in these plays was on one's character i.e. good, evil, sin, etc</p>
<p>Types</p> <p>There are types of Medieval Drama</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Tragedy · Comedy 	<p>Types</p> <p>There are also types of Renaissance Drama</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · romance · Comedy
<p>Place for Performance</p> <p>These plays were performed in the Christian churches.</p>	<p>Place for Performance</p> <p>These plays were performed in the Christian like events</p>
<p>Theme</p> <p>The themes of the plays were based on religion.</p> <p>The main elements of the drama are Christian content and its moralizing purpose.</p> <p>The inception of medieval plays and the secular dramas initiated to honor the birth and rebirth of Christ</p>	<p>Theme</p> <p>The themes of the plays were based on religion. Though they try to move away from church view</p>
<p>Hymn /song</p> <p>The tropes were incorporated in to the liturgical</p>	<p>Hymn /song</p> <p>The tropes were incorporated in to the liturgical</p>

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