

Drama & TV Genre Ideas for Devising Drama

Genre	Description
Realism	Everyday life, naturalistic dialogue, authentic settings
Docudrama / Verbatim	Based on real events or interviews
Physical Theatre	Movement-driven storytelling, often abstract or symbolic
Comedy	Includes slapstick, satire, farce, and dark comedy
Tragedy	Emotional downfall, fatal flaws, catharsis
Melodrama	Exaggerated emotions, clear moral contrasts
Surrealism	Dreamlike, illogical, symbolic or subconscious themes
Absurdism	Meaninglessness, repetition, existential themes
Musical Theatre	Storytelling through song, dance, and dialogue
Improvisation	Spontaneous creation, often interactive
Epic Theatre	Political themes, direct address, Brechtian techniques
Theatre-in-Education (TIE)	Designed to inform or provoke discussion
Forum Theatre	Interactive problem-solving drama (Boal's method)
Pantomime	Family-friendly, exaggerated, audience participation
Mystery / Thriller	Suspense, clues, dramatic irony

Genre	Description
Fantasy	Magical worlds, archetypes, quests
Science Fiction	Futuristic settings, technology, ethical dilemmas
Historical Drama	Period settings, real or imagined events
Romantic Drama	Love stories, emotional conflict
Crime / Detective	Investigation, justice, moral ambiguity
Horror	Fear, suspense, supernatural elements
Soap Opera	Ongoing drama, relationships, cliffhangers
Sitcom	Short-form comedy, recurring characters, familiar settings
Mockumentary	Fictional story told in documentary style
Adventure	Exploration, danger, heroism
Coming-of-Age	Youth, identity, transformation
TV Game Show	Competitive format, audience interaction, exaggerated personas
Children's TV	Bright, simple, educational or fantastical storytelling
Late Night Discussion	Panel-style, opinionated, topical or satirical dialogue
Puppetry	Character-driven, symbolic or whimsical storytelling using puppets
Greek Chorus	Ensemble commentary, narration, stylized movement and speech

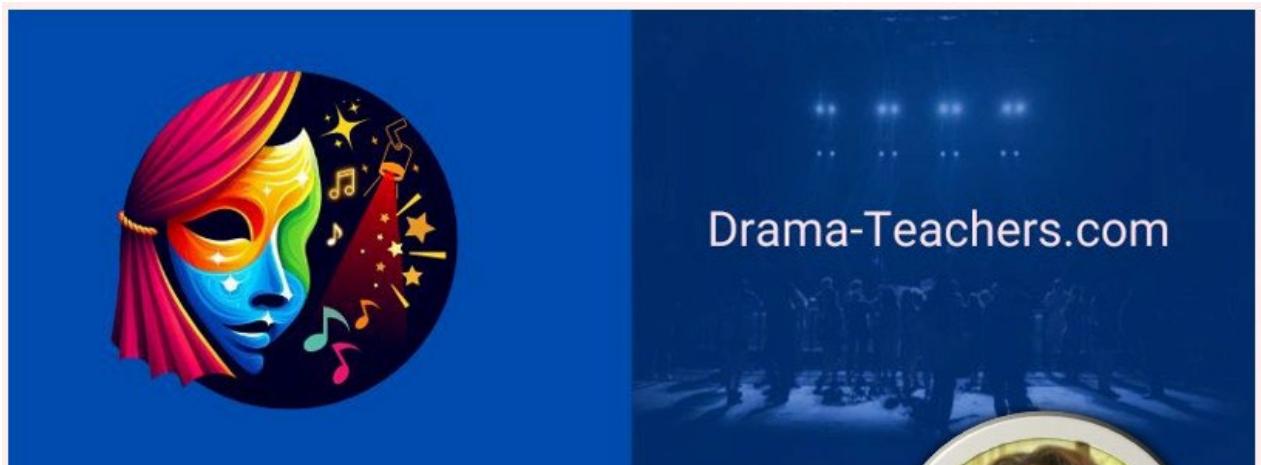
Additional Creative Prompts for Students

- **Mash genres:** What happens when a Greek chorus invades a game show?
- **Flip expectations:** E.g. Turn a horror into a children's TV show.
- **Use genre to explore themes:** e.g., use puppetry to explore identity or forum theatre to address justice issues

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Thank you, from Gail

