Lesson 6
The Playwright

1. (Part I)
Playwright begins process of theatre by writing a play

Carefully structured
Beginning, Middle, End
Beginning: Exposition (set up)
Middle: Conflict
End: Resolution

2. (Part II)
Aristotle: Greek Philosopher and author of “The Poetics”

Six rules or elements of drama:
Plot, Character, Language, Theme, Music, Spectacle

3. #1-Plot: Arrangement and sequence of events in a play
Action: What happens
Linear: Chronological order
Nonlinear: Out of chronological order
Simple or complex (subplots)

4. Conflict: Clash of forces

(Part III) Complication: Initial moment when character enters a struggle
Crisis: Any moment of tension
Climax: Highest point
Resolution: Conflict ends and world returns to harmony

5. #2-Character

Our entry into the play
Capture our attention and imagination
(Part IV) Willpower and determination
Desires propel them into action
6. Relationships: Kinship between two or more characters
Characters defined by their words and actions
What others say about them
Protagonist - Focal character
Antagonist: Opposes protagonist

7. (Part V)
#3-Language: Words exchanged between characters
How the story is given to the audience
Give sensory information
Dialogue, monologues, soliloquies, songs

8. Assertions: Statements of fact
(Part VI) Accusations: Serious offence
Plans: Detailed method of doing something
Commands: Orders that drive a character to act

9. #4-Theme: Central message of play/the result of the entire performance experience
(Part VII) Social commentary
Moral lesson
How the playwright wants the audience to perceive the play

10. #5-Music: Everything you hear in a play
Provides atmosphere, underscores action
(Part VIII) Insight into world
Sound of Actor’s Voice

11. #6-Spectacle: Everything you see in a play; the visual appeal
Blocking
Special effects
Set, lights, costumes