**Playwright Terms**

**character** – who the actor pretends to be

**dialogue** – a conversation between two or more characters

**conflict** – obstacles that get in the way of a character achieving what he or she wants

**scene** – a single situation of unit of dialogue in a play

**stage directions** – messages from the playwright to the actors, technicians, and others in the theater telling them what to do and how to do it

**setting** – time and place of a scene

**monologue** – a long speech one character gives on stage

**plot** – the structure of a play, including the exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and denouement

**soliloquy** – a solo speech in which a character speaks his or her thoughts and feelings aloud, but seems to be unaware of the audience

**aside** – a short speech or comment that is delivered by a character to the audience, but that the other characters on stage presumably do not hear

**couplet** – two lines of verse that rhyme and that usually contain a complete thought

**prose** – dialogue without meter

**iambic pentameter** – a ten-syllable verse line that has five stresses on the second, fourth, sixth, eighth, and tenth syllable

**blank verse** – unrhymed iambic pentameter