

Share this doc with Mr. Peebles right now.

DOCUMENT TITLE:

Class period-first initial.last name-cda notes

List these notes on your table of contents as:
Commedia dell'arte Notes

Introduction to Commedia dell'Arte Notes

This will be taken for a Criteria A completion mark.

Directions: Each () is a missing word and/or phrase in the fill in the blank notes below. You are to supply the missing words between the (). Do not delete the () on your copy. All responses will appear blue when the word is typed in by you.

"Commedia dell'arte is a theatrical form characterized by (improvised) (dialogue) and a cast of colorful (stock) (characters) that emerged in (Northern) (Italy) in the (15th) century and rapidly gained popularity throughout Europe." Translated it means "(comedy) (of) (the) (artist)".

A (stock) (character) is an easily recognizable character. They are a (flat), (one) (-dimensional) character with (predictable) actions. (You will often see the word (archetype) or (archetypal) (character) used as a synonym for stock character. You will also often see the word stereotype with the stock character definition.) (Stock) (characters) are easily (recognized) by the audience. They portray the same (role) in a story despite what the story is about. They behave as (expected) by the audience. They look [based on (

costume)and (appearance)] the same way in each story.

Examples of stock characters:

- (the hero)
- (the villain)
- (the clever servant)

A (stereotypical) (character) is a familiar character identified by an oversimplified (pattern) (of) (behavior) that typically labels the character as being part of a group.

Characters such as a (politician), the (jock), or a (cheerleader) usually bring (visual) (images) to mind of what these characters look like, but also (actions)and (behavior)that define them as being part of that group. Often, we, as the audience, know what to expect when it comes to what their (costume) will look like, even perhaps their (vocal quality), and their (intelligence).

Though all (stock) (characters) are defined, in part, by (stereotypes), not all stereotypical characters are stock characters.

You could have a (hero) character who is a (politician), but not all politicians are considered heroic based on their stereotypes.

The Lazzo

A lazzo [plural is (lazzi)] is an opportunity for the performers to show off (talents) and (skills) verbally and physically in a moment of the performance. A Lazzo is a gag/joke in a Commedia performance. Lazzi are usually used to enhance the (comedy) of the moment, but oftentimes will not (progress) the (action) of the

(story). In other words, You may have a moment where someone is repeatedly slapped with a (board) or (stick) in a comical way. Their (physical) (comedy) and (reactions) may demonstrate (acrobatic) skills, but this moment of comedy does not move the play forward. (Lazzi) are (simple) comedic bits that are easy to (understand).

List 5 stereotypes of a politician (physical or personality/behavior qualities):

1. ()
2. ()
3. ()
4. ()
5. ()

List 5 qualities of a hero character (physical or personality/behavior qualities):

1. ()
2. ()
3. ()
4. ()
5. ()

What are the common qualities of your politician and the hero have in common? Explain why you feel these qualities are common between the two character types. (If you don't have any similar qualities, explain why you think this is the case.)

Response:

Below, create a character and situation in which the defining qualities of a stock hero character also happens to be a politician. (Hint: Start with the qualities of a hero and apply the stereotypical qualities of a politician.)

Response:

Keep a running list of modern examples of Commedia dell'Arte characters in modern TV shows.

Pantalone is like (Mr. Burns) from (The Simpsons).

Zanni is like (Manuel) from (Fawlty Towers).

Il Dottore is like (Chief Wiggum) from (The Simpsons).

Il Dottore is like (Dr. Zoidberg) from (Futurama).

Il Capitano is like (Job) from (Arrested Development).

Il Capitano is like (Capt. Zap Branigan) from (Futurama).

Colombina is like (Marge Simpson) from (The Simpsons).

Brighella is like (Basil Fawlty) from (Fawlty Towers).

Brighella is like (Edmund Blackadder) from (The Blackadder).

Common aspects of Commedia dell'Arte stories and performances:

- Clever word play; double/misunderstood meaning/message of communication is common
- Confusion of characters; characters often mask their identity or change the way they are perceived (changing their name, impersonating another character [a long lost/missing relative, a person that is presumed

deceased, using a different name]

- Communication breakdown amongst characters/characters jump to conclusions which complicates the story
- Situations become easily complicated/confused
- Stories are familiar and predictable; in the end the good get what they deserve and the bad get what they deserve (Note: “good” and “bad” are loosely used term to refer to characters who desire something and those who stand in their way of achieving it)
- The performers use their natural/acquired talents in the context of the performance to add to the humor of the performance.