Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mystery plays and morality plays were the first European plays to unite religious life and secular life in more than a thousand years. Whole towns pitched in to create them; whole towns arrived to see them. Those wagon wheels paved the way for the Renaissance’s theatrical explosion.

1. A couple of episodes ago, we looked at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…
2. *For a while*, **liturgical drama** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Eventually it’s just \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. Even these **colossal churches** become \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *to contain the awesomeness that is Theater*
5. *Liturgical drama* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *to the only other place with enough square footage to accommodate all that…majesty*: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

In 1210, Pope Innocent III issues an edict saying that the clergy can’t perform plays in public.

1. In the *early 13th century* a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: **Drama** *moves from being* a **clerical *phenomenon*** to being ***a secular one***.
2. *Since Roman times*—*for more than* ***a thousand years***!—Christians have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Performing plays inside the church, basing them exclusively on the Christian liturgy, and having members of the clergy act in them were the strategies Christians used to make it less sinful…

1. Theater *sticks pretty closely* to the Bible and associated religious texts as the liturgical dramas \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ into the **cycle plays**.

Cycle plays are an ambitious genre of medieval drama that depicts the whole history of the Christian universe, starting with the creation of the world, and ending with the death and resurrection of Christ, and skimming most of the Old and New Testaments in between. Some of them go all the way up to the Last Judgment.

1. *In England, the performing of cycles began sometime in the late 1300s and continued until into the late 1500s*, when **they were banned because of** the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. In the *age of* **religious disputes and wars**, *religious drama* was seen as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (even if it was very popular).

In some cities cycle plays were organized by religious guilds, but in many places, especially England, they were produced by trade and craft guilds.

1. This is *why they are sometimes known as mystery plays,* because a “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” was *another word* for a **trade**.
2. The plays were more about **mystery** in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. **Cycle plays** *are also known as* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ if the particular cycle *focuses on the passion of the Christ.*
4. *In most cases*, each \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ would be responsible for staging a biblical story...
5. **Each guild** would \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *the* **costumes, actors, and set** – and *pile it all into* a \_\_\_\_\_\_ **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, known as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…
6. **Each play** lasted **half an hour**, and there were upwards of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!
7. The **cycle dramas** were often **performed** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…
8. **Most actors** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, either: they were *men and boys*, drawn *from the working class*. In some towns, *women participated*.
9. The cycle plays were a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *for tourists* and a *chance for towns to show off their civic Pride*…
10. **Most plays** *restated the basic action of* a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, though guilds would dress stories up with anachronistic jokes and **the occasional bit of** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Plays were typically a mix of **highly stylized action** and **contemporary realism**.

1. Medieval stagecraft *wasn’t the most sophisticated*–…but *guilds wanted to put on a good show*, so there were **plenty of** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…
2. One of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and **best loved** of the *cycle plays* is “**The Second Shepherd’s Play**.”
3. It was *composed by an* ***anonymous writer*** *sometime in the 15th century*, known only as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. It’s called “The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Shepherd’s Play,” *because* there’s *an earlier shepherd’s play in the same manuscript trove*.
5. *After the shepherd’s leave*, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ comes down and tells them to **go to Bethlehem** and **see the Christ child**.
6. In this play, we can see the **Bible story**, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from ***the gospel of Luke***, **intersect** pretty comfortably with the English vernacular…
7. It *reminds the audience* that **Christ was born** to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, as well as biblical types. And there’s just ***a little cannibalism***—for fun.
8. **Cycle plays** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *the only fun in town*.

Pretty soon another form of medieval drama made its debut: the secular play! Which first appeared in France in the late 13th century.

1. The **other important medieval genre** is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which Hildegarde of Bingen started. *The most famous morality play is “****Everyman****,” which is still performed annually and often updated.*
2. **Morality plays** have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: **YOU GONNA DIE**.
3. But you know what will follow you?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. **Morality plays** have a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the plays of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
5. *Mystery, folk, and morality* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. They remained the dominant forms of theater for more than **300 years**.
6. But things **get tricky** at the *beginning of the Renaissance* when **Protestant reformers look around** *and decide that* ***drama and religion*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and they **ban cycle dramas**.