

33 Dramatic Situations based on Georges Polti's Ideas

1. Supplication	2. Deliverance	3. Crime Punished by Vengeance
4. Vengeance Taken For Kindred Upon Kindred	5. Pursuit	6. Disaster
7. Falling Prey to Cruelty or Misfortune	8. Revolt	9. Daring Enterprise
10. Abduction	11. The Enigma	12. Obtaining
13. Enmity of Kinsmen	14. Rivalry of Kinsmen	15. Madness
16. Fatal Imprudence	17. Slaying of a Kinsman Unrecognized	18. Self-sacrificing for an Ideal
19. Self-sacrifice for Kindred	20. All Sacrificed for a Passion	21. Necessity of Sacrificing Loved Ones
22. Rivalry of Superior and Inferior	23. Rivalry of Superior and Inferior	24. Obstacles to marriage:
25. An Enemy Loved	26. Ambition	27. Conflict With a God
28. Mistaken Jealousy	29. Erroneous Judgement	30. Remorse
31. Recovery of a Lost One	32. Loss of Loved Ones	33. Mistaken Identity

1. SUPPLICATION (To humbly petition). Elements: a persecutor, a humble petitioner, and a power in authority whose decision is doubtful.

A1 Fugitives imploring the powerful for help against their enemies.

A2 Assistance implored for the performance of a pious duty which has been forbidden.

B1 Hospitality besought by the shipwrecked.

B2 Charity entreated by those cast off by their own people, whom they have disgraced.

B3 Expiation: the seeking of

C1 Supplication of the powerful for those dear to the suppliant.

C2 Supplication to a relative in behalf of another relative.

A3 Appeals for refuge in which to die.	<p>pardon, healing or deliverance.</p> <p>B4 The surrender of a corpse, or relic, solicited.</p>		
2. DELIVERANCE. Elements: an unfortunate, a threatener, a rescuer.			
A Appearance of a rescuer to the condemned.	<p>B1 A parent replaced on the throne by his children.</p> <p>B2 Rescue by friends, or by strangers grateful for benefits or hospitality.</p>		
3. CRIME PURSUED BY VENGEANCE. Elements: an avenger and a criminal.			
<p>A1 The avenging of a slain parent or ancestor.</p> <p>A2 The avenging of a slain child or descendant.</p> <p>A3 Vengeance for a child dishonoured.</p> <p>A4 The avenging of a slain wife or husband.</p> <p>A5 Vengeance for the dishonour, or the attempted dishonouring, of a wife.</p> <p>A7 Vengeance for a slain or injured friend.</p>	<p>B1 Vengeance for intentional injury or spoilation.</p> <p>B2 Vengeance for having been despoiled during absence.</p> <p>B3 Revenge for an attempted slaying.</p> <p>B4 Revenge for a false accusation.</p> <p>B5 Vengeance for violation.</p> <p>B6 Vengeance for having been robbed of one's own.</p> <p>B7 Revenge upon a whole gender (male or female) for a deception by one.</p>	C Professional pursuit of criminals.	
4. VENGEANCE TAKEN FOR KINDRED UPON KINDRED. Elements: Avenging kinsman, guilty kinsman, remembrance of the victim, a relative of both.			
<p>A1 A father's death avenged upon a mother.</p> <p>A2 A mother avenged upon a father.</p>	B A brother's death avenged upon a son.	C A father's death avenged upon a husband.	D A husband's death avenged upon a father.
5. PURSUIT. Elements: Punishment and fugitive.			

A Fugitives from justice pursued for brigandage, political offenses, etc.	C A hero struggling against a power.	D A pseudo-madman struggling against an Iago-like alienist.
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6. DISASTER. Elements: A vanquished power, a victorious enemy or a messenger.

A1 Defeat suffered. A2 A fatherland destroyed. A3 The fall of humanity. A4 A natural catastrophe.	B A monarch overthrown.	C1 Ingratitude suffered. C2 The suffering of unjust punishment or enmity. C3 An outrage suffered.	D1 Abandonment by a wife or a husband. D2 Children lost by their parents.
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7. FALLING PREY TO CRUELTY OR MISFORTUNE. Elements: an Unfortunate; a Master or a Misfortune.

A The innocent made the victim of ambitious intrigue.	B The innocent despoiled by those who should protect.	C1 The powerful dispossessed and wretched. C2 A favourite or an intimate finds himself forgotten.	D The unfortunate robbed of their hope.
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8. REVOLT. Elements: Tyrant and Conspirator.

A1 A conspiracy chiefly of one individual. A2 A conspiracy of several.	B1 Revolt of one individual, who influences and involves others. B2 A revolt of many.
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9. DARING ENTERPRISE. Elements: A bold leader, an object, an adversary.

A Preparations for war.	B1 War. B2 Combat.	C1 Carrying off a desired person or object. C2 Recapture of a desired object.	D1 Adventurous expeditions. D2 Adventure undertaken for the purpose of obtaining a beloved woman.
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10. ABDUCTION. Elements: The abductor, the abducted, the guardian.

A Abduction of an	B Abduction of a	C1 Recapture of the woman	D1 Rescue of a
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unwilling woman.	consenting woman.	without the slaying of the abductor. C2 The same case, with the slaying of the ravisher.	captive friend. D2 Rescue of a child. D3 Rescue of a soul in captivity to error.
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11. THE ENIGMA. Elements: Interrogator, seeker, and problem.

A Search for a person who must be found on pain of death.	B1 A riddle to be solved on pain of death.	C1 Temptations suffered with the object of discovering his name. C2 Temptations offered C3 Tests for the purpose of ascertaining the mental condition.
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12. OBTAINING. Elements: A solicitor and an adversary who is refusing, or an arbitrator opposing parties.

A Efforts to obtain an object by ruse or force.	B Endeavour by means of persuasive eloquence alone.	C Eloquence with an arbitrator.
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13. ENMITY OF KINSMEN. Elements: A malevolent kinsman, a hated or reciprocally hating kinsman.

<p>A Hatred of siblings:</p> <p>A1 One sibling hated by several.</p> <p>A2 Reciprocal hatred between siblings.</p> <p>A3 Hatred between relatives for reasons of self-interest.</p>	<p>B Hatred of parent and child:</p> <p>B1 Hatred of the child for the parent.</p> <p>B2 Mutual hatred.</p> <p>B3 Hatred of the parent for the child.</p>	<p>C Hatred of grandparent for grandchild.</p>
<p>D1 Hatred of parent-in-law for son-in-law or daughter-in-law.</p> <p>D2 Hatred of two brothers-in-law or sisters-in-law</p>	<p>E Hatred of son-in-law (daughter-in-law) for mother-in-law.</p>	<p>F Infanticide.</p>

14. RIVALRY OF KINSMEN. Elements: the preferred kinsman, the rejected kinsman, and the object.

A1 Malicious rivalry of a sibling.	B1 Rivalry of parent and child	C Rivalry of cousins.	D Rivalry of friends.
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A2 Malicious rivalry of two siblings.			
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15. MADNESS. Elements: Mad person and victim.

<p>A1 Kinsman slain in madness.</p> <p>A2 A husband or wife slain in madness.</p> <p>A3 Slaying or injuring of a person not hated.</p>	B Disgrace brought upon oneself through madness.	C Loss of loved ones brought about by madness.	D Madness brought on by fear of hereditary insanity.
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16. FATAL IMPRUDENCE. Elements: The imprudent, the victim or the object lost.

<p>A1 Imprudence the cause of one's own misfortune.</p> <p>A2 Imprudence the cause of one's own dishonour.</p>	<p>B1 Curiosity the cause of one's own misfortune.</p> <p>B2 Loss of the possession of a loved one, through curiosity.</p>	<p>C1 Curiosity the cause of death or misfortune to others.</p> <p>C2 Imprudence the cause of a relative's death.</p> <p>C3 Imprudence the cause of a husband or wife's death.</p> <p>C4 Credulity the cause of kinsman's death.</p> <p>C5 Credulity the cause of misfortune.</p>
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17. SLAYING OF A KINSMAN UNRECOGNIZED. Elements: The slayer, the unrecognized victim.

<p>A1 Being upon the point of slaying a daughter unknowingly, by command of a divinity or an oracle.</p> <p>A2 Through political necessity.</p> <p>A3 Through a rivalry in love.</p> <p>A4 Through hatred</p>	<p>B1 Being upon the point of killing a son unknowingly.</p> <p>B2 Being upon the point of killing a son unknowingly, strengthened by Machiavellian instigations.</p> <p>B3 Being upon the point of killing a son unknowingly, intermixed with hatred of kinsmen.</p>	<p>C Being upon the point of killing one's brother unknowingly:</p> <p>C1 Brothers slaying in anger.</p> <p>C2 A sister slaying through professional duty.</p>
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of the husband of the unrecognized daughter.		
D Slaying of a mother unrecognized.	E1 A parent slain unknowingly through Machiavellian advice. E2 The slaying of a parent unknowingly. E3 The insulting of a parent unknowingly.	F1 A grandparent slain unknowingly, in vengeance and through instigation. F2 A grandfather slain involuntarily. F3 A parent-in-law killed involuntarily.
G1 Involuntary killing of a wife. G2 Upon the point of killing a husband or wife unrecognized. G3 Failure to rescue an unrecognized son.		

18. SELF-SACRIFICING FOR AN IDEAL. Elements: The hero, the ideal, the creditor or the person or things sacrificed.

A1 Sacrifice of life for the sake of one's word. A2 Life sacrificed for the success of one's people. A3 Life sacrificed for the happiness of one's people. A4 Life sacrificed in filial piety. A5 Life sacrificed for the sake of one's faith.	B1 Both love and life sacrificed for the sake of one's faith. B2 Both love and life sacrificed for the sake of a cause. B3 Love sacrificed to interests of state.	C Sacrifice of well-being to duty.	D The ideal of honour sacrificed to the ideal of faith.
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19. SELF-SACRIFICE FOR KINDRED. Elements: The hero, the kinsman, the creditor or the person or thing sacrificed.

A1 Life sacrificed for that of a relative or loved one. A2 Life sacrificed for the happiness of a relative or loved one.	B1 Ambition sacrificed for the happiness of a parent. B2 Ambition sacrificed for the life of a parent.	C1 Love sacrificed for the sake of a parent's life. C2 Love sacrificed for the happiness of one's child. C3 Love sacrificed for the happiness of a loved	D1 Life and honor sacrificed for the life of a parent or loved one. D2 Modesty sacrificed for the life of a relative or a loved one.
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		one. C4 Love sacrificed for the happiness of one's child, but caused by unjust laws.	
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20. ALL SACRIFICED FOR A PASSION. Elements: The object of the fatal passion, and the person or thing sacrificed.

A2 A vow broken. A5 Power ruined by a passion. A6 Ruin of mind, health, and life. A7 Passion gratified at the price of life. A8 Ruin of fortunes, lives, and honour.	B Temptations (see 12) destroying the sense of duty, pity, etc.	C1 Destruction of honor, fortune, and life by vice. C2 The same effect produced by any other vice.
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21. NECESSITY OF SACRIFICING LOVED ONES. Elements: The hero, the beloved victim, and the necessity for the sacrifice.

A1 Necessity for sacrificing a daughter in the public interest. A2 Duty of sacrificing her in fulfilment of a vow to God. A3 duty of sacrificing benefactors or loved ones to one's faith.	B1 Duty of sacrificing one's child, unknown to others, under the pressure of necessity. B1 Duty of sacrificing, under the same circumstances, one's parent. B3 Duty of sacrificing, under the same circumstances, one's spouse. B4 Duty of sacrificing a son-in-law for the public good. B5 Duty of sacrificing a son-in-law for the sake of reputation. B6 Duty of contending with a brother-in-law for the public good. B7 Duty of contending with a friend.
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22. RIVALRY OF SUPERIOR AND INFERIOR. Elements: The superior rival, the inferior rival, and the object.

A1 Rivalry of a mortal and immortal. A4 Of conqueror and conquered.	B1 Of a sorceress and an ordinary woman. B2 Of victor and prisoner.
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<p>A5 Of victor and vanquished.</p> <p>A6 Of a master and a banished man.</p> <p>A7 Of usurper and subject.</p> <p>A8 Of suzerain king and vassal king(s).</p> <p>A9 Of a powerful person and upstart.</p> <p>A10 Of rich and poor.</p> <p>A11 Of an honoured man and a suspected one.</p> <p>A12 Rivalry of two who are almost equal.</p> <p>A13 Rivalry of equals, one of whom in the past has been proved guilty of adultery.</p> <p>A14 Of a man who is loved and one who has not the right to love.</p> <p>A15 Of the two (or more) successive husbands of a divorcee.</p>	<p>B3 Of a queen and subject.</p> <p>B4 Of a queen and slave.</p> <p>B5 Of lady and servant.</p> <p>B6 Of a lady and a woman of humbler position.</p> <p>B7 Of a lady and two women of humbler class.</p> <p>B8 Rivalry of two who are almost equals, complicated by the abandonment of one.</p> <p>B9 Rivalry between the memory or an ideal (that of a superior woman) and a vassal of her own.</p>
<p>C Double rivalry (two or more people want the same thing).</p>	

23. DISCOVERY OF THE DISHONOR OF A LOVED ONE. Elements: The discoverer and the guilty one.

<p>A1 Discovery of a parent's shame.</p> <p>A2 Discovery of one's child's dishonour.</p> <p>A3 Discovery of a sibling's shame or dishonour.</p>	<p>B1 Discovery of dishonour in the family of one's fiancée.</p> <p>B2 Discovery that one's wife has been violated before marriage.</p> <p>B3 Discovery that one's wife has been violated since the marriage.</p> <p>B4 Discovery that one's spouse previously committed a fault.</p>	<p>C Discovery that one's child is an assassin.</p>	<p>D1 Duty of punishing one's child who is a traitor to country.</p> <p>D2 Duty of punishing one's sibling who is a traitor to his party.</p> <p>D2 Duty of punishing a child condemned under a law which the parent has made.</p> <p>D3 Duty of punishing one's child believed to be guilty.</p> <p>D4 Duty of sacrificing, to fulfill a vow of tyrannicide, a father until then</p>
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			<p>unknown.</p> <p>D5 Duty of punishing a sibling who is an assassin.</p> <p>D6 Duty of punishing one's mother to avenge one's father.</p>
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24. OBSTACLES TO MARRIAGE: Elements: Two Suitors and an obstacle.

<p>A1 Marriage prevented by inequality of rank.</p> <p>A2 Inequality of fortune an impediment to marriage.</p>	<p>B Marriage prevented by enemies and contingent obstacles.</p>	<p>C1 Marriage forbidden on account of one partner's previous betrothal to another.</p>
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<p>D1 A marriage impeded by the opposition of relatives.</p> <p>D2 Family affection disturbed by the parents-in-law.</p>		
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25. AN ENEMY LOVED. Elements: The beloved enemy, the lover, and the hater.

<p>A1 The loved one hated by the kinsman of the husband or wife.</p> <p>A2 The husband pursued by the brothers of his wife.</p> <p>A3 The husband hated by the family of his wife.</p> <p>A4 The husband is an enemy of the party of the wife.</p>	<p>B1 The husband is the slayer of the father of his wife.</p> <p>B3 The wife is the slayer of the brother of her husband.</p> <p>B5 The same case, except that a wife, instead of a husband, has been slain.</p> <p>B6 The husband is the slayer of a kinsman of the wife.</p>
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26. AMBITION. Elements: An ambitious person, a thing coveted, and an adversary.

<p>A1 Ambition watched and guarded against by a kinsman or patriot friend or by a brother.</p> <p>A2 By a relative or person under obligation.</p> <p>A3 By partisans.</p>	<p>B Rebellious ambition (akin to #8).</p>	<p>C1 Ambition and covetousness heaping crime upon crime.</p> <p>C2 Parricidal ambition.</p>
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27. CONFLICT WITH A GOD. Elements: A mortal and

an immortal.	
A1 Struggle against a deity.	B1 Controversy with a deity.
A2 Strife with the believers in a god.	B2 Punishment for contempt of a god.
	B3 Punishment for pride before a god.
	B4 Presumptuous rivalry with a god.
	B5 Imprudent rivalry with a deity.

28. MISTAKEN JEALOUSY. Elements: The jealous one, the object of whose possession he is jealous, the supposed accomplice, and the cause or the author of the mistake.

A1 The mistake originates in the suspicious mind of the jealous one.	B1 Jealousy suggested by a traitor who is moved by hatred.
A2 Mistaken jealousy aroused by a fatal chance.	B2 Jealousy suggested by a traitor who is moved by self-interest.
A4 baseless jealousy aroused by malicious rumours.	B3 Jealousy suggested by a traitor who is moved by jealousy and self-interest.

29. ERRONEOUS JUDGEMENT. Elements: The mistaken one, the victim of the mistake, the cause or author of the mistake, and the guilty person.

A1 Suspicion where faith is necessary.	B1 False suspicions drawn upon oneself to save a friend.
A2 False suspicion.	B2 False suspicions fall upon the innocent.
A3 False suspicion (in which the jealousy is not without reason) of a mistress.	B3 False suspicions fall upon the innocent spouse of the guilty one.
A4 False suspicions aroused by the a misunderstood attitude of a loved	B4 False suspicions fall upon an innocent but guilty-intentioned.

<p>one.</p> <p>A4 False suspicions aroused by indifference.</p>	<p>B5 False suspicions fall upon an innocent who believes themselves guilty.</p> <p>B6 A witness to a crime, in the interests of loved one, lets accusation fall upon the innocent.</p>
<p>C1 The accusation is allowed to fall upon an enemy.</p> <p>C2 The error is provoked by the enemy.</p> <p>C3 The mistake is directed against the victim by her brother.</p>	<p>D1 False suspicion thrown by the real culprit upon one of his enemies.</p> <p>D2 False suspicion thrown by the real culprit upon the second victim against which he has plotted from the beginning.</p> <p>D3 False suspicion thrown upon a rival.</p> <p>D4 False suspicion thrown upon an innocent because he has refused to be an accomplice.</p> <p>D6 Struggle to rehabilitate oneself and to avenge a judicial error purposely caused.</p>

30. REMORSE. Elements: The culprit, the victim or the sin, and the interrogator.

- A1 Remorse for an unknown crime.
- A2 Remorse for a parricide.
- A3 Remorse for an assassination.
- A4 Remorse for a judicial murder.
- A5 Remorse for the murder of husband or wife.

31. RECOVERY OF A LOST ONE. Elements: The seeker and the one found.

A Recovery of a lost one.

32. LOSS OF LOVED ONES. Elements: A kinsman slain, a kinsman spectator, and an executioner.

A1 Witnessing the slaying of kinsmen while powerless to prevent it.

B Divining the death of a loved one.

A2 Helping to bring misfortune upon one's people through professional secrecy.

C Learning of the death of a kinsman or ally.

D Relapse into primitive baseness, through despair on learning of the death of a loved one.

33. MISTAKEN IDENTITY.

A Thinking someone is rich when

B The wrong man caught in the web

C

he's poor.

of fear.

Schizophrenia.