

## Drama – Cycle Plays

- I. **Miracle (mystery) plays**
  - A. Earliest form (1300s)
  - B. Based on Bible stories and life of Christ and Saints
  - C. Grew out of church dramas
  - D. Written and performed by amateurs (not professionally done)
    1. Loosely organized
    2. No sense of history
      - A. Costumes
      - B. Props
      - C. **Anachronisms** in dialogue, etc.
    3. Every day language and events
    4. Religious, but some comic scenes (fools and devils)
    5. Sketchy characters
    6. Few sets
  - E. Organized and produced by **trade guilds**
  - F. Performed on **pageant wagons**
    1. In the marketplace, in yards, etc.
    2. Moved from place to place
    3. Groups of wagons and dramas formed a “**cycle**”
  
- II. **Morality plays**
  - A. Later type (1400s)
  - B. Presented much like earlier plays
  - C. More elaborate and sophisticated than earlier plays (**allegories**, etc.)
  - D. Dramatized the conflict between good and evil
  - E. They were **didactic**