



01. Big Feelings

The feelings are broadcast for all to see – there is no subtlety. Characters have big reactions to what is happening and make declarations of love, fear, revenge, etc.

02. Good vs Evil

There are no moral gray areas in classic melodramas. The hero is good, the villain is evil, and the audience is there to see the heroes win.



03. Spectacle

Go big or go home doesn't just apply to the feelings. Melodramas are made to keep the audience hooked with chases, escapes, fights – even the setting is dramatic.



04. Archetypes

Every melodrama would have characters people could recognize – the Hero, the plotting Villain, the damsel in distress that the hero has to save, and the trusty sidekick.



05. Dramatic Sound

The music and sound cues of melodrama underscores the black and white nature – think trumpets for the good guy, violins for the scary bits.

