Dithyrambs:
- The origin of western theatre
  - Began some time before the 6th century B.C.
    - With dithyrambs, or hymns
      - Sang to Dionysus, the god of wine and harvests
      - Related episodes from his life

Greek Chorus:
- Introduction of an actor added dialogue

Satyr Play and Tragedy:
- Came out of the ecclesiastical part of the celebration
- Ribald form of comedy
  - First appearance of folkloric figure of Silenus
    - A water spirit
    - Accompanied by the satyrs
  - Written by a playwright to be presented in the afternoon of the day on which his tragedies also were to be produced.

Aeschylus:
- First important dramatist
- 525-456 B.C.
- Wrote 80 – 90 plays
  - Seven of which are still in existence
- Relied largely on the chorus
  - Primarily used traditional themes
  - Based on myths and Olympian law

Sophocles:
- 2nd major writer of Tragedy
- 494 – 406 B.C.
- Wrote well over 100 plays
- Credited with introducing a third actor and with reducing the size of the chorus from fifty to twelve
- More interested in the interplay between characters than in the telling or religious myths
- Plots much more realistic than those of Aeschylus
  - Concerned with human beings as the determiners of their own fate, rather than as subjects to the gods.
  - Central character always has a tragic flaw that brings about his or her downfall.

Euripides:
- 3rd major writer of tragedy
- 480 – 406 B.C.
- Credited with ninety-two plays