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21L.421 Comedy
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Greek and Roman Comedy

Old Comedy from about 450 BCE (beginning of Greek democracy) to mid-4th century

Dionysian revelry

Abuse and invective

Use of chorus, poetic devices, verbal elegance

Concern with the polis

Aristophanes, Cratinus, Eupolis

Middle Comedy early 4th century

Less use of chorus, satire

New Comedy late 4th century to mid-3rd century BCE

No chorus

Romantic plots, young lovers, family conflicts

Obstacle figures—father, doctor, braggart soldier

Menander

Adapted by Plautus, Terence in Rome and Renaissance playwrights