

Script Analysis

I. Where does the play take place?

- A. What does the author list in the stage directions?
- B. What do the characters say specifically about where they are?
- C. What do the characters say that implies a place?
- D. How do the characters describe the place they are in?
- E. What do the characters say about items or clothing that might indicate a specific place?
- F. What is the significance to the place or places in which each scene take place?
- G. Summary, in what country, city, town, building, room does the play take place and why did the playwright chose this location for the story?
- H. How does each character feel about the place/s they are in?
- I. Why do you think the playwright chose this/these place/s?

II. When does the play take place?

- A. What does the author list in the stage directions?
- B. What do the characters say specifically about the time, date, month, day, year, season, etc?
- C. What do they say that implies time?
- D. How do the characters describe the time period in which they are in?
- E. What do the characters say about items or clothing that might indicate a specific period?
- F. Over what time frame does the action of the play occur? It may help to construct a time chart for the action?
- G. Summarize, in what time of day, day of the week, date, month, year, season, decade, century does the play take place?
- H. What is the significance to the time period, day, date, month, year, season, decade, century?
- I. Why do you think the playwright chose this period of time?

III. What happened before the play began?

- A. List the lines of dialog for each character that indicate what happened before the play began in that character's point of view.
- B. Write a short statement for each character that indicates what happened before the play began from that character's point of view
- C. Summarize the story before the action of the play based on all the information from all the characters.

IV. What happens in the play?

- A. Briefly summarize the events that take place scene by scene.
- B. What is the most important event in the play?
- C. How is each character related to/or a participant of this event?
- D. How is the play structurally organized- is it casual, abstract, episodic, combination, etc?
- E. What is the climax of the events?
- F. Construct visual action chart for the events based on the play's structure.

V. Who are the characters?

- A. How are the characters related?
- B. What are their roles in life?
- C. What do they think of each other?
- D. What do they think of themselves?
- E. Under what form of government do they live?
- F. What role does religion play in each character's life?
- G. What are the attitudes of each character regarding sex?
- H. What are the attitudes of each character regarding family?
- I. What are the attitudes of each character regarding ethical conduct?
- J. What is the prevailing attitude of the community regarding I-M above?
- K. Which characters live within the prevailing attitudes of their community?
- L. Which characters rebel against the prevailing attitudes of their community?

M. Dialog

N. Who are the principal characters?

O. Who are the secondary characters?

P. Are there any crowds/groups?

Q. What if anything does the character's name mean?

VI. The Big Questions

A. What is the significance of the title?

B. What is the significance of the characters names?

C. Are there discussions or debates that seem separate from the plot but in some way relate to the main idea of the play?

D. Are there any lengthy monologues that contain social issues?

E. Are there any epigrams, allusions, imagery, or intentional symbolism?

F. If there is a prologue/epilogue what is the central idea it contains?

G. What are the conflicts?

H. What are the options to choose from for a "main idea" for the play as a whole?

I. What is the play about?