

Independent Reading Guide: The Play

Name _____ Date _____

Directions to the Student: Use the questions below to clarify your understanding of and response to a play. Reflect on each question before answering. If you are keeping a *Reader's Response Journal* or wish to start one, use one of the suggested activities to make an entry.

Play Title _____ Playwright _____

This play was (circle one) _____ assigned _____ a personal selection.

This play was found in the (circle one) textbook library other _____.

Elements of the Play

1. Who is the protagonist—the main character—in the play? _____
2. What kind of person is the protagonist? _____

3. What evidence in the play leads me to this opinion of the protagonist? _____

4. What challenge or conflict does the protagonist encounter? _____

5. How is the conflict resolved? _____

6. What other important characters are involved in the conflict? _____

7. Where and when does this play take place? How does the playwright reveal this information? _____

8. How would I describe the mood? How does the playwright establish this mood? _____
9. Summarize the theme or central idea of this play. What other books or plays with this theme have I read? _____

10. Is there a short passage or a dialogue that states or strongly implies the theme? If so, what is it? _____

Response to the Play

Rate this play by circling the appropriate word.

- | | | | |
|---|------|------|--------|
| 11. The characters and dialogue are believable. | weak | fair | strong |
| 12. The stage directions and the action of the characters are easily visualized. | weak | fair | strong |
| 13. The plot of the play engages my interest. | weak | fair | strong |
| 14. This play helps me understand people and events. | weak | fair | strong |
| 15. This play evokes strong feelings or thoughts about the message or the characters. | weak | fair | strong |
| 16. Reading this play increases my interest in seeing a performance of the play. | weak | fair | strong |
| 17. Overall, I rate this play as | weak | fair | strong |

Reasons for my rating: _____

18. What predictions and questions occurred to me as I read this story? Were my predictions accurate? Were my questions answered?

Reader's Response Journal

- Is there a dialogue or a scene in this play that you find unclear or puzzling? If so, write one or more questions you would like to ask the playwright to explain.
- Briefly describe a character or a scene in this play that reminds you of someone you know or an experience in your life.