
17:1d Act I: Our Town

Introduction: The first part of "Our Town," and the longest part, follows the inhabitants through a day, from sun-up to sun-down.

Read Act I and answer the following numbered questions. The play will be watched in class; Answer the indented questions.

Questions: Answer the following questions fully.

1. Who is the narrator or host of this play? _____
2. What, normally, is a Stage Manager's job? _____
3. Who does the Stage Manager introduce? _____
4. What is the effect of all that? _____
5. What accent does he speak in? Example? _____
6. What time is the Stage Manager in? _____
7. What time will the players be in? _____
8. What props are on stage? _____
9. In most plays, what do the props try to get the audience to do?

10. What do these props aim to get the audience to do?

11. What would be the most complicated part of this production?

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12. Describe the town in your own words.

13. What does he say about the tombstones? _____

14. What does the narrator tell you about the Gibb's family and Joe Crowell?

15. What is the effect of that knowledge? _____

16. Would you rather he told you this, or not?

17. What does Doc Gibbs ask everyone? _____

18. What does that tell you about the town? _____

19. Complete the quote "I'd rather have my kids _____."

20. What does that tell you about the town? _____

21. Have you ever heard something like that said in your town?

22. The Stage Manager disappears on page 25. Why might the director want him off the stage? _____

23. What was offered Mrs. Gibbs? _____

24. With what you know now, is that a good deal? _____

25. Why won't Doc Gibbs go traveling?

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26. Does that make sense?

27. Have you heard someone say something similar about your town?

28. What information does the Professor give?

29. What time frame is all the information? _____

30. What point is the playwright making? _____

31. What information does the editor give? _____

32. What three questions does the editor field?

33. What do those questions show about the audience?

34. In 2003, what questions might the editor have to field?

35. How can you tell that George is attracted to Emily?

36. How does he act in a conventional way? How does she?

37. What are Emily's dreams? _____

38. How will they change? _____

39. Does the playwright think that is a bad thing? _____

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40. With this in mind, what is the double meaning behind the phrase "the moonlight is so terrible tonight"? _____

41. Why does the Stage Manager want to preserve a copy of this play for eternity?

42. Is he saying that Babylon was a lot different from Grover's Corners or that they are similar? _____

43. Where are George and Emily in relation to the choir? _____

44. Why wouldn't the playwright leave them separate?

45. How does the playwright feel about youth, considering how they are placed on stage? _____

46. In your own words, what does Doc Gibbs say to his son?

47. How is it effective? _____

48. How is it more effective than yelling at him?

49. What is Simon Stimson's problem?

50. What advice does Mrs. Gibbs give? _____

51. Is that good advice or bad? _____

52. Why is he drunk? _____

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53. Are some people "just not small town people"? Explain.

54. The moon gets mentioned several times. What do you think it is symbolic of?

55. What song does Mr. Webb whistle?

56. Why does he whistle it?

57. Why does the author use it?

58. What is the address on the envelope Rebecca mentions?

59. What do you suppose that address signifies?
