

What is the play about?

- A. A theme is a subject; any idea, process, physical object, or motive about which the characters adopt a demonstrable attitude.
Examples: health, either mental or physical, greed, remorse, underwear, building a house, the 4th of July picnic, the King of England.
- B. Many dramas can be divided into thematic units for the purpose of analysis. A **thematic unit** is a passage of dialog in which the subject of conversation remains constant.
- C. The various themes may sort or factor into issues, controversies, antinomies, or other families to become thematic structures.
- D. The interpretation of the thematic structures of a play involve:
 1. relating them to some larger intellectual scheme or idea
 2. relating them to the thesis of the play, (i. e., to the playwright's point of view regarding the themes of the play as you interpret what the playwright thinks. You may need to do some extra research [you will]).
 3. discerning the principle governing the selection and organization of themes
 4. determining the technique through which the playwright translates the themes into shapes, colors, sounds, smells, textures, scenic forms, gestures, movement

Assignment

1. MLA Essay style.
2. For the assigned play, look at the units of the play. Identify the themes in the following units. Tell me what they are and why you think so.
 - a. Marked thematic units pp75-end is all I need you to upload
 - b. all scenes (just tell me in the paper)
 - c. the play as a whole (tell me in the paper)
3. Determine the thematic elements in each and how they relate (how do the themes in the thematic units relate to the themes in the scenes, which relate to those in the acts, which relate to those in the play, which may relate to a larger idea).
4. Once you have identified main themes, follow letter D.