

Transcript: *Dirt* — A Play in Composted Texts

Characters:

- Stage Director (SD)
- Dirt
- Soil
- Compost

Act One

SD: Act One. Lights up—gray-ish and muted. Stage center: Dirt sits with bare feet resting on an empty garden bed. Stage left: Soil occupies an enormous terra cotta pot. Compost walks in a slow circle around the stage.

Dirt: Dirt is made up of sand, silt, and clay, and it may be rocky. It has none of the minerals, nutrients, or living organisms found in soil. It is not an organized ecosystem. You cannot plant a productive garden in dirt.

Soil: Dirt and soil are not the same thing, but they are certainly related. Think of soil as having dirt in it, while also having extra things in it that make it superior to mere dirt. You can't have soil without dirt.

Soil, Dirt, and Compost: (*together*) All soil began as dirt.

SD: Lights out.

Act Two

SD: Act Two. Lights up — blue-ish and muted. Dirt and Soil remain where they left off — sitting and standing. Compost walks in a slow circle around the stage.

Compost: Compost is a broad term explaining the process of recycling organic materials.

Soil: My analysis provides a unified framework with which to understand the use of dirty and clean as metaphors to categorize objects, events and actions in the moral domain.

Dirt: I suggest that the dirty-clean distinction is useful for understanding broader cultural issues and I show that the conceptualization of certain non-moral properties can be understood using the same framework.

Compost: Dirt Is Dead.

SD: Dirt and Soil rise, move to center stage where they high five. They move to center stage behind the garden bed. Dirt sits. Soil stands. Lights out.

Act Three

SD: Act Three. Dirt and Soil lay on their sides on either side of the garden bed, looking lovingly at each other. Compost walks in a circle around the stage. Lights up.

Soil: Dirt is an unclean matter, especially when in contact with a person's clothes, skin, or possessions. In such cases, they are said to become dirty.

Dirt: Common types of dirt include:

- Debris: scattered pieces of waste or remains
- Dust: a general powder of organic or mineral matter.
- Filth: foul matter such as excrement
- Grime: a black, ingrained dust such as soot
- Soil: The term 'soil' may refer to unwanted substances or dirt that are deposited onto surfaces such as clothing.

Compost: For the purposes of learning, it can be useful to draw such distinctions.

Dirt: When I understood
I had never honored you as a living
equal,

Soil: I was ashamed of myself,
as if I had not recognized
a character who looked so different from me,

Compost: but now I can see us all, made of the
same basic materials—

SD: Cousins of that first exploding from nothing—
in our intricate equation together.