

(Full play)

Night Mother

Tuesday classes: & Mandy class

1: Go over the basic plot of the play, and why it's interesting.

Jessie wants to commit suicide: but she's feeling the best she's felt in years! — **feeling fine in fact ??? — p.13**

Jessie — **not mad at mama ??? — see p. 21**

How could Mama have had no idea that Jessie was so unhappy?

2: Show the film clip. — **The gun is for me Mama. 17:41**

3: An important theme of this play: **see the baby picture passage! P. 76**

Crucial theme of the play: the importance of growing into yourself, and your own individuality.

4: What happened? Why didn't Jessie grow into herself? Why did she never arrive?

\* important part of the play: Jessie finds something out about her epilepsy, something she never realized before. **"If I had to tell you about you I'd have to tell him about him." pp. 68-70**

6: An important theme of this play: co-dependency

Mama runs from herself — like Willy did....by getting over-involved with someone else — her daughter....and this was bad for both (compare the two situations.)

\* Bad for Jessie: — **see passage about how Jessie met Cecil p. 58....**Mama was too involved with Jessie's life...Jessie should have made her own decisions about her life — like getting married.

\* Bad for Mama: She avoided facing herself and living her life all this time: see the passage: **Into what - the Queen? p. 49**

\* She never confronted herself, her husband, Jessie, or even friends like Agnes — due to inferiority complex. (**She was Agnes' girl, judge for yourself.**) **p. 57**

\* Bad for Jessie — **you don't pack up your garbage p. 61** — compare with Mama (**I didn't have a thing he wanted.**) **p. 46.**

7: Now we can understand why Jessie kills herself:

\* crucial passage: **Everything you do you do to me... p. 72**

\* We can see why it took her so long to resolve her conflict with herself and commit to ending her life.

\* We can see why she wants to talk to her mother...

4: Explain why the play is so so tragic:

\* Jessie — nothing to live for...can't take it anymore — suffering! So much suffering! When someone suffers - and it doesn't stop...they harm themselves; they can't take it anymore.

**\* Read the passage — “I can’t do anything about my life... except turn it down..) p. 36**

**Show clip - I say No! (And link with passage.) p. 75 — No Mama, we wouldn’t have more talks like tonight... FILM: 1:14:12**

**5: Explain why the play though is not “horrific”:**

**\* Mama resolves conflicts...and she grows...**

**MAMA starts to talk:**

**It didn’t matter if we love each other...we didn’t talk about it. p. 50. — FILM clip: 48:20**

**Why do you read the newspaper?.... p.55 56. FILM CLIP: 53:10**

**Important Passages: \* “I never said I knew much...I’m sorry...” p. 58**

**\* Jessie did what she wanted to do - she took control, she pulled it off...**

**Passage: I should have left you a note! Yes! No! Then I wouldn’t have thought about all the things we talked about... p.79**

**AND THEN MAMA’s powerful words at the end: “I thought you were mine..”p. 89. Show film : 1:29:00**