

- Lenny uses physical objects in his attempt to impose his will on Ruth. He tries to move the ashtray and takes the glass away because he decides when she stops drinking and has had enough, and for him, smoking is only for men.
- When Sam enters the living room from the kitchen, he is holding a cloth. Sign of femininity, he is doing the wife's job → emasculates him
- Cigars is a man's sign, a sign of masculinity (especially in the 60s)

GENDER ROLES:

- Stereotypes of what men should be like and what women should be like, which are constructed by society
- Ruth decides to go for a walk late at night and Teddy ends up going to bed and waiting for his wife to return home = a role reversal from most conventional male-female relationships in the theater of the period → she doesn't obey him, she confronts him, she does not ask if she can go outside, she imposes it on him
- Lenny tries to move the ashtray and takes the glass away because, as the man, he decides when she stops drinking and has had enough, and for him, smoking is only for men, tries to belittle her.
- Cigars is a man's sign, a sign of masculinity (especially in the 60s), while the woman does the dishes and is supposed to take care of the men: Max asks Ruth if she is a good cook to remind her that in this house, the woman's place is in the kitchen. Ruth plays along and pretends to be the compliant woman of the house who always tries to get on the men's good side: "That was a very good lunch".
- In this play, it is because they cannot have their way with Ruth that the men's position is undermined. It becomes clear that their intention is to replace Jessie with Ruth.
- Lenny: "You get all the gravy" (to Teddy) = all he sees are the perks of married life → the parallel between women and food suggest that women are only to satisfy man's basic needs only for their consumption. In the mind of the men, women are simply there to fulfill their desires
- referring to woman with "dooly": this is an incredibly disparaging way of talking about women, belittles them = puppet and doll - objectifies them, as if they were manipulated, handled, and controlled by men.
- Max's idea is to exploit Ruth as a sexual object. he calculates her value: "She is worth in the three figures", but also as a replacement of Jessie: they plan to pay her with clothes in return for cooking and sexual things. The men suggest putting Ruth "in the game" = exploit her as a prostitute

Preview from Notesale.co.uk
Page 8 of 8