

## TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU FIND 'A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE' AN EFFECTIVE TITLE FOR THE PLAY?

A View From The Bridge is a play written by Arthur Miller set in the 1950's. The play is set in Red Hook, neighbor of Brooklyn. At the time of the play, Red Hook was a low class society. Majority of the people were poor Italian immigrants, searching for the American Dream and opportunities, which were just not prosperous.

The play portrays Alfieri as a chorus, someone who comments on the action as well as getting involved in the play, and reveals the outcome of the play at the outset. This tells us that from Alfieri, we get to see the play in a different perspective, as though we are looking down from the Brooklyn Bridge onto the people of Red Hook and their lives. This is also shown, as Miller wants to give a voice to those who don't have one. When looking down from a bridge you have a much bigger perspective on the world. Instead of getting caught up in all the little dramas down below, you get a great big panoramic view. You can see how all the smaller parts fit together and affect each other. In this case, we are able to see how Eddie's mistakes and actions fit together to convey his death. However, the fact that we are looking down on the characters gives a sense of distance or removal, which is quite ineffective as the audience is closer to the character, with the help of Alfieri.

A View From The Bridge could also be conveying the relationships of the characters and how they are 'bridged' together. For example Beatrice and Eddie's relationship, they start off as a normal couple, however as the play gradually moves towards Catherine and Rodolpho's marriage, Eddie feels as if Beatrice has betrayed him by choosing Catherine and Rodolpho over him. Although Eddie feels betrayed, later on in the play, Beatrice also feels betrayed as Eddie has just told the Immigration Bureau about Marco and Rodolpho. This relationship between Eddie and Beatrice is strong at first but then this 'bridge' almost collapses, until Eddie's death. Eddie's death bridges their relationship again.

In conclusion, I feel that 'A View From The Bridge' is an effective title but the play would have been more effective if Miller had kept the name 'An Italian Tragedy' as the title. This is because a tragedy has a hero involved, who has a flaw, and this flaw leads to their downfall, which does happen in the play but two Italian's also have a tragedy in this play. They get deported back to Italy, and Marco may even stay in prison for killing Eddie.

## TO WHAT EXTENT IS IT POSSIBLE FO FEEL SYMPATHY FOR EDDIE?

In A View From The Bridge, we are immediately aware that Eddie is the main character in the play. Eddie is longshoreman who lives with his niece, Catherine and his wife, Beatrice. From reading the play, we are aware of the fact that as they play gradually moves on, we feel more sympathetic towards Eddie. This is because Miller portrays a tragic hero, a man who has got a hamartia. For Eddie, the outcome is necessarily tragic in the process of arriving at the end. This plays makes use of tragic elements in a way,