

Pygmalion – Additional questions

Interpretation

1. What are the main conflicts in the play, and how is each resolved?
2. What does the setting add to the story?
3. Where is the climax of the play? Justify your answer.
4. Are the characters in the play stereotypes? If so, explain why stereotypes were used. If not, explain how the characters merit individuality.
5. Could anything have been gained by adding more scenes either before the beginning of the play or after the ending? If so, what and for what purpose? If not, why not?

Critical

6. Discuss the ideas by which Higgins lives his life. Do they have any merit?
7. Are Liza's actions believably motivated? Explain why or why not.
8. Compare and contrast Higgins and Pickering.
9. Characterize Bernard Shaw's style of writing. How does it contribute to the value of the play?
10. Compare and contrast Liza and Clara.
11. Compare and contrast Mrs. Higgins and Mrs. Eynsford Hill.
12. Who is responsible for Liza's situation? Explain why.
13. Explain how the title relates to the events of the play and the themes of *Pygmalion*.
14. Explain Pickering's role in the play. Why was he included?
15. What is Mrs. Pearce's role in the story? What is her use as a character?
16. Explain how the names of the characters are appropriate.
17. Is the story of *Pygmalion* believable? Explain why or why not.
18. Explain how Liza's view of "lady" changes during the course of the play.
19. Who is the main character of the play? Justify your answer.

Critical/Personal Response

20. Define "good girl" as you think Liza would.
21. Discuss the meaning of the following quotations in relationship to the themes of the play:
22. "You and I and Pickering will be three old bachelors instead of only two men and a silly girl."
23. "... the difference between a lady and a flower girl is not how she behaves, but how she is treated."
24. "The question is not whether I treat you rudely, but whether you ever heard me treat anyone else better."
25. "I care for life, for humanity; and you are a part of it that has come my way and been built into my house. What more can you or anyone ask?"
26. "Making life means making trouble."
27. "I only want to be natural."

Personal Response

28. Did you enjoy reading *Pygmalion*? Why or why not?
29. What is the difference between "being rich" and "having class"?
30. Eliza Doolittle aspired to work in a real flower shop instead of on the corner. Define and describe one of your aspirations.
31. Define "vulgar."
32. Have you read any other books or seen any movies that were similar in any way to *Pygmalion*? If so, what were they?