

***Pygmalion* – Act II**

1. When Higgins recognizes the flower girl, what is his reaction?
2. What does Eliza Doolittle want?
3. Even after he agrees to teach her, what is Higgins' attitude towards Eliza?
4. Describe Mrs. Pearce's role.
5. Eliza determines to leave rather than to be further insulted. How does Higgins persuade her to stay?
6. What is the point of the bath scene?
7. Mrs. Pearce makes some suggestions to Higgins. What are they?
8. Why did Alfred Doolittle come to see Professor Higgins?
9. Doolittle says, "I'm undeserving, and I mean to go on being undeserving." Why does he not want to better himself?
10. Why does Doolittle want only five pounds instead of the ten he is offered?

Pygmalion – Act II

1. When Higgins recognizes the flower girl, what is his reaction?
He says that “she’s no use. . . . I’m not going to waste another cylinder on it. Be off with you; I don’t want you.” (26)
2. What does Eliza Doolittle want?
She wants to learn how to speak well enough to be able to be hired to work in a flower shop instead of on the street corner.
3. Even after he agrees to teach her, what is Higgins’ attitude towards Eliza?
“She’s deliciously low—so horribly dirty. [...] Put her in the dustbin.” (29-30) He treats her as an object—and not a very nice object, either.
4. Describe Mrs. Pearce’s role.
She is the housekeeper for Higgins and tries to be the voice of reason: “You mustn’t talk like that to her. [...] Stop, Mr Higgins. I won’t allow it. It’s you that are wicked.” (31) “But what’s to become of her? Is she to be paid anything? Do be sensible, sir.” (32)
5. Eliza determines to leave rather than to be further insulted. How does Higgins persuade her to stay?
He offers her chocolates and promises her taxis, gold, and diamonds.
6. What is the point of the bath scene?
It shows Eliza has ideas of morals and decency even though she is low-class and “vulgar.” She has a personal code of right and wrong and is sensitive.
7. Mrs. Pearce makes some suggestions to Higgins. What are they?
She asks him to curse less, to not sit around in his robe, to not wipe his hands on his clothes, and to try to be a good example for his pupil.
8. Why did Alfred Doolittle come to see Professor Higgins?
He wanted to get money for himself, to blackmail Higgins in order to get a little money.
9. Doolittle says, “I’m undeserving, and I mean to go on being undeserving.” Why does he not want to better himself?
If he rises in class, he also will rise in responsibility. He wants a free life, free from responsibility and people’s expectations.
10. Why does Doolittle want only five pounds instead of the ten he is offered?
He can waste five pounds without feeling guilty. Ten pounds would require responsibility.