

1. Why is it important for Meg to come home in Crimes of the Heart? Explain how Meg's personality and personal history makes her the driving force that pushes the play towards its final resolution?

It's important for Meg to come home in Crimes of the Heart because she has a large influence and impact on her sisters Lenny and Babe. For example, Meg is the one who builds up Lenny's courage to reach out to Charlie and ask for them to meet again. Also, Meg is the one who finds Babe in the middle of her suicide attempt and stops Babe before she commits suicide. Meg also has a tendency to irritate her sisters and get under their skin either because of her behavior or her role as the favorite granddaughter as the three sisters were growing up. It's important for Meg to come home because although she can cause a lot of tension and frustration, she also brings the sisters together and holds their family together as well. She serves the role as a rock which provides safety and stability for Lenny and Babe.

Meg's personality and personal history makes her the principal force that pushes the play towards its final resolution. Out of the three sisters in this play, Meg is the calm and collected one who Lenny and Babe rely on. Meg was also the one who found her mother after she had hanged herself. This event was significant in Meg's development which caused her to mature quickly and led to Meg receiving more attention and care from her grandparents compared to Lenny or Babe. Although Lenny and Babe resent Meg at times for her careless behavior or because of the extra attention that she received growing up, they also rely on Meg to build their confidence or remember the good memories that the three of them share. At the end of the play, it's Meg who returns with the cake for Lenny, it's Meg who saves Babe from committing suicide, and it's Meg who brings all three sisters together to celebrate Lenny's birthday and share another

good memory. Therefore, Meg serves a crucial role in moving the play towards its final resolution.

2. How does Tom Stoppard use *The Real Inspector Hound* to force viewers to think about how plays actually work -- while watching the play itself? What specific techniques does the playwright use to blur the lines between actors, play characters, theater critics and the audience itself?

Tom Stoppard uses the theater critics Moon and Birdboot to force the viewers to think about how plays actually work while they're watching the play. Audiences are used to watching plays and analyzing the play for themselves. However, Stoppard creates a play within a play which is spectated by two theater critics who are analyzing the play alongside the audience. The criticism and dialogue between Moon and Birdboot force the audience to consider how the play on the stage actually works. The thoughts that Moon and Birdboot shared are digested by the audience which causes them to think about how the play works as well.

Tom Stoppard blurs the lines between actors, play characters, theater critics and the audience itself through several techniques. One example would be when Birdboot leaves his booth for theater critics, answers the phone that's ringing on the play stage, and begins to play the role of Simon. It goes against the audience's expectations and it creates uncertainty as to what is real and what is not. Another example of Stoppard blurring the lines is when the original actors for Simon and Inspector Hound take the roles of the theater critics in the booth as Moon and Birdboot take the roles of Inspector Hound and Simon, respectively. This completely blurs the lines in terms of who is part of the play, who is not part of the play, and even where the play

begins and ends. It's such an interesting technique that really makes the audience of the play stop and wonder, "What is going on? What's and what's not real?".

3. In *A Streetcar Named Desire*, is Stella excusable for refusing to acknowledge that Stanley raped Blanche? If Stella is simply doing what Blanche says she does -- making up a reality she wants to believe instead of facing the world as really it is -- does that excuse Stella from rejecting the truth about Stanley's crime? Why or why not?

It's not excusable for Stella to refuse to acknowledge that Stanley raped Blanche since it's a very heinous crime which was committed on her own family. Stella should have stepped in and addressed the issue rather than not addressing it and allow her sister to be taken to a mental hospital. I understand that Stella wants to preserve her relationship with Stanley especially now that she is pregnant but her sister getting raped by Stanley means that a line has been crossed and Stella should have spoken up.

Making up a reality that she wants to believe in does not excuse Stella from not facing reality and rejecting the truth about Stanley's crime. Blanche has always cared for Stella and even pleaded with Stella not to return to Stanley after Stanley hit her. Blanche and Stella really care about one another deeply so for Stella to betray Blanche in the end was very hurtful and uncalled for. Although Stella wants to make up her own reality, her decision to not face the truth and not address her sister's rape will have enormous consequences for everyone who was involved.

4. Explain how and why Walter gives up on his dream in *A Raisin in the Sun*. How does Walter have to change so his family members' dreams can come true? Give specific examples.

Walter gives up on his dream in *A Raisin in the Sun* by letting go of the idea of owning a liquor shop and instead accepting the idea to move into a new house in a new neighborhood. Walter decided to give up on his dream because he realized that he was the person that everyone looked up to in the family and he had a responsibility to do what was right and good for everyone in the family rather than to do what he wanted to do. Walter had to really grow and develop from someone who was obsessed with his own grand plans for the future, such as owning a liquor shops and buying Cadillacs for his family, into a true family man who works to provide for his family and do what's best for them.