

THET110 Final Exam Study Guide

Plays:

1. Oedipus

- a. By Sophocles
- b. Tragedy
- c. Set in Thebes
- d. Summary
 - i. Plague strikes Thebes
 - ii. Oedipus, the king, must solve murder of who killed Laius
 - iii. Tiresias tells Oedipus that he is the murderer; tells him that Laius's murderer will be both father and brother to his own children, and the son of his own wife
 - iv. Jocasta (Oedipus's wife) tells Oedipus that Laius got a prophecy that he was going to be killed by his son, but his son was cast out of Thebes as a baby and Laius was murdered by a band of thieves
 - v. Jocasta tells Oedipus that Laius was killed at a 3-way crossroads, and Oedipus realizes he killed him
 - vi. Oedipus tells of his prophecy that he would kill his father and sleep with his mother
 - vii. Shepherd tells Oedipus he came to Corinth as an orphan to live with his foster parents—Laius and Jocasta sent him away with the messengers
 - viii. Jocasta realizes what has happened and hangs herself
 - ix. Oedipus pokes his eyes out and is exiled from Thebes

2. Hamlet

- a. William Shakespeare
- b. Set in Denmark
- c. Tragedy
- d. Summary
 - i. King Hamlet's ghost appears to Prince Hamlet, telling him that his brother Claudius killed him and to seek revenge
 - ii. Hamlet contemplates what to do, appears to be mad
 - iii. Claudius and Gertrude (his mother & queen) think he is in love with Ophelia, but they listen to their conversation and learn that he is not
 - iv. Hamlet arranges a group of actors to put on a play that reenacts Claudius killing his brother to test him—he will react if he did kill him
 - v. Claudius reacts, and Hamlet decides to kill him, but waits because Claudius is praying
 - vi. Hamlet accidentally kills Polonius through the curtain where he thinks Claudius is hiding
 - vii. Hamlet is sent to England with Rosencrantz and Guildenstern
 - viii. Ophelia drowns herself in grief for her father's (Polonius) death
 - ix. Claudius convinces Laertes, Polonius's son, to have a fencing match with Hamlet and Claudius will poison his blade so Hamlet will die
 - x. Claudius also poisons a goblet as a back-up plan
 - xi. Hamlet declines the drink, Gertrude drinks it and dies

- xii. Laertes is cut by his own sword and tells Hamlet that Claudius is responsible for the queen's death
- xiii. Hamlet stabs Claudius with the poisonous sword and forces him to drink the goblet
- xiv. Claudius and Hamlet both die (Laertes wounds Hamlet with poisonous sword)

3. A Doll's House

- a. Henrik Ibsen
- b. Set in Norway, Nora and Torvald's living room
- c. Realism, modern prose drama
 - i. Detailed stage directions, middle class family, social problems
- d. Summary
 - i. Dr. Rank comes to visit them
 - ii. Kristine Linde also visits them—Nora's old friend whose husband just died and left her with no kids or money
 - iii. Mrs. Linde says she has no meaning in life, wants to know if Torvald can help employ her
 - iv. Nora tells Mrs. Linde she illegally borrowed money for Torvald's trip to Italy to help cure his illness
 - v. She told Torvald the money was from his father
 - vi. Nora secretly works and saves money to repay the debt
 - vii. Krogstad (works with Torvald) and Torvald have a meeting and Torvald says they can probably hire Mrs. Linde
 - viii. Nora and Krogstad are left alone, they talk and Krogstad is revealed to be the source of the secret loan
 - ix. Krogstad tells Nora that Torvald threatened to fire him; asks Nora to convince him not to and blackmails her with the forgery of her father's signature
 - x. Nora tries to convince Torvald not to fire Krogstad, but he refuses to listen
 - xi. Torvald send the maid to deliver Krogstad's letter of dismissal
 - xii. Dr. Rank reveals to Nora that he is in love with her
 - xiii. Krogstad sends letter to Torvald revealing Nora's secret
 - xiv. Mrs. Linde and Krogstad rekindle their old flame
 - xv. Costume party—Torvald tells Nora how good she looked as she danced
 - xvi. Torvald reads Krogstad's letter and tells Nora she is not fit to raise their children
 - xvii. Helene (maid) brings in another letter in which Krogstad returns Nora's contract
 - xviii. Torvald is overjoyed, but Nora is affected by his words—says he has treated her like a "doll" to be played with and admired and leaves him

4. Spurt of Blood

- a. Antonin Artaud
- b. Theater of Cruelty

- c. Goes beyond systems of language, instead opening the body to a fully sensual experience
 - d. Induce a trance that might permit performers and audience members to escape or resist control of authoritarian regimes
5. A Strong Breed
6. A Raisin in the Sun
- a. Lorraine Hansberry
 - b. Set in Southern Chicago between 1945-1959
 - c. Realist drama
 - d. Summary
 - i. Youngers receive an insurance check for \$10,000
 - ii. Mama wants to buy a house with the money; Walter Lee wants to use it to invest in a liquor store with his friends; Ruth wants to use it on Travis, their son; Beneatha wants to use it for medical school tuition
 - iii. Ruth becomes pregnant and is considering abortion
 - iv. Mama puts a down payment on a house in a white neighborhood (Clybourne Park)
 - v. Karl Lindner (Clybourne Park Improvement Association) offers the Youngers money so that they don't move into the house—they refuse
 - vi. Walter loses the rest of the money to his friend Willy Harris, who promises him to invest in the liquor store and then runs off with the money
 - vii. Beneatha rejects George Murchison (wealthy black man), and accepts a marriage proposal from Joseph Asagai who embraces African culture
 - viii. The Youngers move to Clybourne Park
7. Trifles
- a. Susan Glaspell
 - b. Set in Iowa, around 1900
 - c. Summary
 - i. John Wright has been murdered—someone tied a rope around his neck in the middle of the night
 - ii. The sheriff, his wife (Mrs. Peters), the county attorney, and the neighbors (Mr. and Mrs. Hale) enter the kitchen of the Wright household to look for clues
 - iii. The men go upstairs, because they claim nothing important is in the kitchen
 - iv. Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters look in the kitchen—notice that there are ruined fruit preserves, bread left out of the box, unfinished quilt, empty bird cage
 - v. The women state that it must have been hard to live with Mr. Wright, since he was cold and oppressive
 - vi. Find dead bird in a box that was strangled—they do not tell the men
 - vii. Mrs. Wright compared to a bird before she married Mr. Wright, she was happy, free, sweet, pretty – he ruined that for her