

Junior
Certificate
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Programme



The Field

Student Workbook
John B. Keane



The Field

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Phone: 01 2365000

Email: jcsp@pdst.ie Website: www.jcsp.ie

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Authors:

Samantha Burton, Amy McElroy

Novel Resources Coordinator:

Denise O'Flanagan JCSP Advisor

Act One Scene One Questions

1. What kind of person is Bird in your opinion?
2. What kind of person is Mick in your opinion?
3. How does Mick treat Leamy?
4. Why does Maggie come to the pub?
5. What sort of life does Maggie have?
6. What do you find out about the characters from the way they speak?
7. Describe the field Maggie wants to sell.
8. What impression do you get of Bull McCabe before we meet him?
9. What reserve price does Maggie put on the field?
10. Do Mick and Maimie have a good relationship?
11. How does Bird get a drink when he has no money?
12. What are your first impressions of Bull after we meet him?
13. What did Bull and Tadgh do to the black stallion donkey?
What do you think of this?
14. How does Mick react when Bull says they'll keep the auction secret?
15. Why does Bull need the field so badly?
16. How does Bull threaten Mick?
17. What plan do Mick and Bull make for the day of the auction?
18. What advice does Bull give Tadgh about marriage?
19. Why does the sergeant come to the pub?
20. How does Bull treat the sergeant?

Activity

Stage Management

- a) List any five props that you would need to perform this scene on stage.
- b) Pretend you are a member of the audience watching this scene being performed onstage. Draw a picture of how you imagine the stage should look. You can include where you would place the characters in your picture.

Act One Scene Two Questions

1. What story does Maimie tell Bird about Mick? What is your reaction to this?
2. What connection does William have to this place?
3. What is William Dee like?
4. Why does William Dee want to move to Ireland?
5. Why does William want the field?
6. How do Bull and Tadgh treat William when they meet him?
7. What is the result of the auction?
8. How does Bull threaten William?
9. How does Bull threaten Maggie?

Activity

Writing

At the end of this scene Bull, Tadgh and Mick are in a huddle at the counter. Write the conversation they might be having. Remember to write it in the style that the play is written and to include actions as well as words.

Act One Scene Three Questions

1. Describe Maimie and Leamy's relationship.
2. Why has Dandy McCabe come to the pub?
3. What is Dandy like? Explain your answer.
4. How does dandy's wife react when Bull arrives? What does this tell you?
5. What does Maimie say about Bull's plan to frighten William?
6. How does Bull threaten her?

Activity

Descriptive Writing

Pick any three characters from the play. Describe what you think they look like and what they should wear on stage. You could draw a picture too if you wish. If you were directing this play what famous actors/actresses would you choose to play these parts?

Atmosphere

At the end of this scene Dandy is singing a song in the pub. What do you think the atmosphere would be like if you were sitting in the pub? Explain your answer.

Act Two Scene One Questions

1. What does Bull say that shows he loves the field?
2. What do we learn about Bull's relationship with his wife?
3. What caused the problems between Bull and His wife?
4. What is the mood like in this scene as they wait for William?
5. Why is Tadgh interested in Patsy Finnerty's daughter?
6. Describe the relationship between Bull and Tadgh.
7. How do Bull and Tadgh treat Bird when he arrives?
8. Is William easily scared by Bull and Tadgh? Explain.
9. Describe what Bull and Tadgh do to William. What do you think of this?
10. How does Bird react when William is killed?

Activity

Diary Entry

Pretend you are Bull McCabe, write a diary entry about what has been happening in your life.

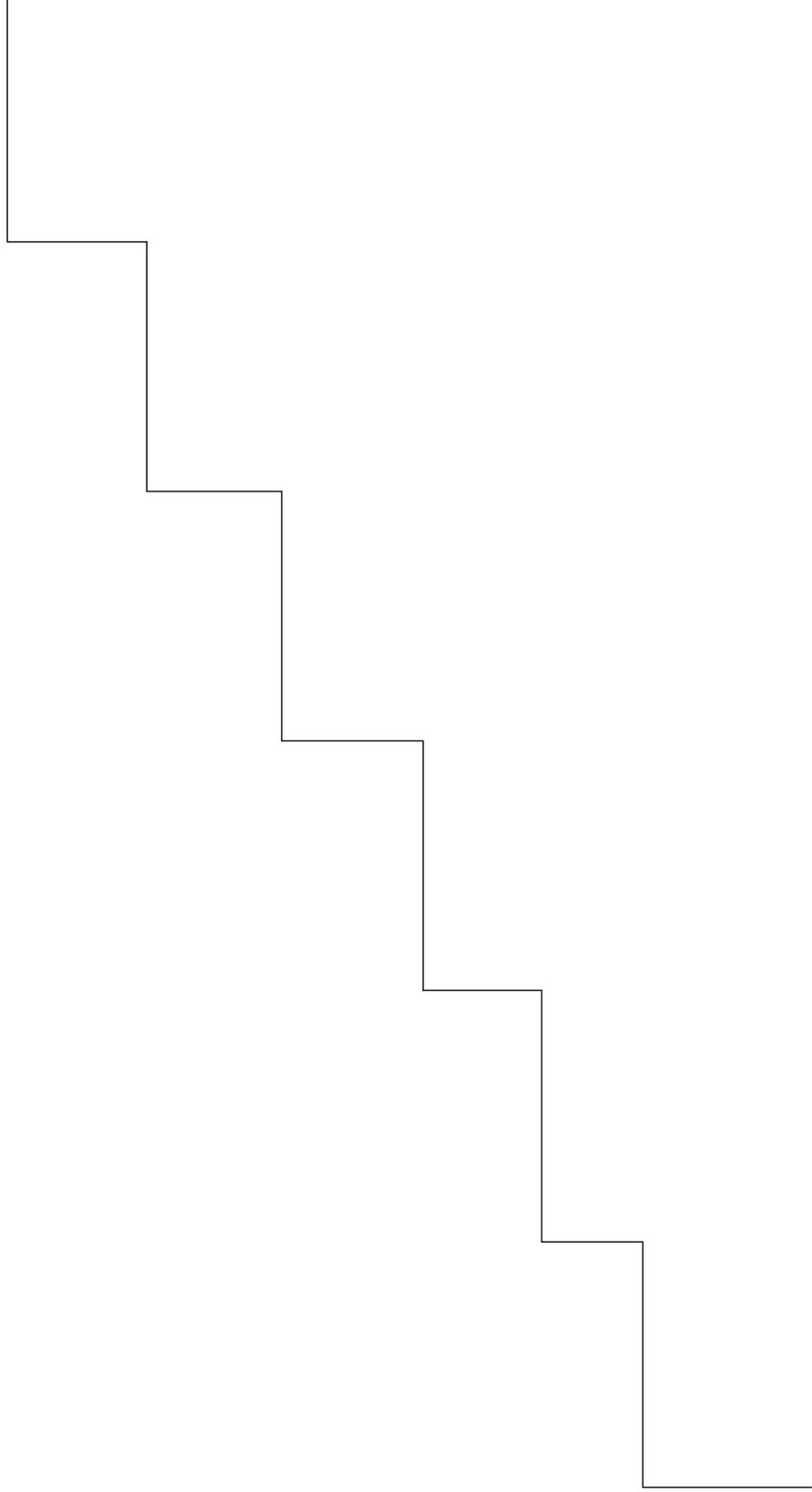
Include

- How the field went up for sale
- William's arrival
- The auction
- William's death
- Your relationship with your wife and family

Actions and Consequences

Many actions led to William's murder. Show these actions and who is responsible for them on the steps below.

Steps leading to William's death



Act Two Scene Two Questions

1. What opinion does Leamy have of the men in the village?
2. Why won't Maimie let Leamy go to the police?
3. Why does he want to go to the police?
4. What is the point of the bishop's sermon?

Activity

Point of View/Letter

Imagine you are Leamy, write a letter to your friend who lives in the next village. Tell him/her what has been going on in Carraigthomond from your point of view. Explain how you are feeling after everything that has happened. (note to designer-full page empty box layout as for informal letter)

Act Three Scene Three Questions

1. What is happening as this scene begins? How does that make you feel?
2. What is the mood in the pub before the sergeant and the priest arrive?
3. Why has the Bishop's appeal 'fallen on deaf ears' so far?
4. Why won't Maggie give information about William's death?
5. Why does the sergeant say 'you're up against a stone wall'?
6. Is Mick very helpful to the sergeant? Explain your answer.
7. Do you feel sorry for the sergeant? Explain your answer.
8. Why is Maimie in a bad mood? Explain your answer.
9. Bird tells the sergeant, 'If I took that £500, you'd be trying to solve a second murder and you'd be no nearer than you are to solving this one.' What does he mean by this?
10. Does Bull have respect for the law? Explain your answer.
11. Is Bull affected by what he has done? Explain your answer.

Activity

Pretend this outline is Bull McCabe. Write everything he is feeling inside the outline.
Write everything that is going on in his life outside the outline.



Personal Response – Your feelings on the ending

Write about the ending of the play 'The Field'. You should mention the following points:

- What happens in the end?
- Were you surprised by the ending? Why/Why not?
- How have characters changed from the beginning to the end of the play?
- If you were writing the next scene, what would happen next?
- Is there a hero in this story? If so what makes him/her a hero?
- Is there a villain in this story? Explain your answer.
- Does the playwright send us a message in this play? What is that message?
- Did you like the ending? Explain your point of view.
- Do you think life in the village will change at all after the events in the play? Explain your answer.

Props in 'The Field'

Props are the items that actors touch and move around on stage. The props that characters use can tell us a lot about the type of people that they are. Choose one prop that you associate with each of the following characters. Draw a picture of it under their name. Then say what it tells us about them.

Character	What the prop shows
Bull	
Tadgh	
Mick	
Bird	
Leamy	
Maimie	
William	

Overview of 'The Field'

Setting

1. Describe the village of Carraighthomond.
2. Would you like to live in Carraighthomond? Give reasons for your answer.

Character

1. List all the main characters in the play. Write down three characteristics for each character e.g. greedy, honest, aggressive etc. Find a quote from the play to match each characteristic.
2. Who is your favourite character? Give three reasons for your answer.
3. Who is your least favourite character? Give three reasons for your answer.

Theme

What are the main themes in this play?

Find three quotes to match each theme that you choose.

Place and Time

Imagine you are directing a modern version of this play.

What would you change?

Consider setting, costume, language, 'The Field' itself etc.

Reflections on the play

1. Identify a hero, heroine or villain from a play you have studied.

Explain why, in your opinion, this character deserves the title hero, heroine or villain. Support your answer with reference to the play.

2. Describe a play you have studied in which there is a likeable character.

- Describe the character.
- Describe the ending of the play.
- Would you change the ending? Why/Why not?

3. Think about a play you have studied.

- Name the play.
- Describe a character that you found interesting.
- Describe a scene where this character had something important to say or do.
- Explain why this scene was important for this character.

