

OPERATION: LIFESAVERS

GOAL: EVERYONE WILL BEAT THE AP LITERATURE EXAM

DATE OF MISSION: MAY 10TH



I, the undersigned, agree to complete my LifeSaver guide according to the terms listed on this contract, on the due date of Thursday, April 19, 2012, with the exception of the guide for Oedipus Rex, which is due on April 26, 2012. This will be printed and submitted prior to the start of the class period. I understand that I am not to print this in Ms. Youssef's room after 8:00 AM. I recognize that I am doing this as a service to myself as I will master the literary work for which I complete a LifeSaver guide, as well as a service to my peers as they are depending upon my LifeSaver guide as a supplemental resource. I recognize that this will help us reach our goal of 100% of students passing the AP English Literature & Composition Exam with a score of a 3 or higher.

Directions:

1. You will choose one text for which you will be responsible for creating a LifeSavers guide.
2. This LifeSavers guide should be typed and emailed to Ms. Youssef. Use the space provided and summarize your points; these are meant to be concise and brief guides to the texts. You can access this file on the HOW page of our website (<http://www.aplitsia.weebly.com>)
3. NOTHING is to be plagiarized. Everything, even if you look it up on the internet, must be paraphrased in your own words.
4. You must discuss, in your LifeSavers guide, the main points of this text and of the time period that we covered in class.

	Literary Work	LifeSaver (student responsible)
1.	Invisible Man	
2.	A Doll's House	
3.	Gulliver's Travels	
4.	Hamlet	
5.	Waiting for Godot	
6.	Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead	
7.	Heart of Darkness	
8.	Things Fall Apart	
9.	Oedipus Rex	

I will be the LifeSaver for _____.

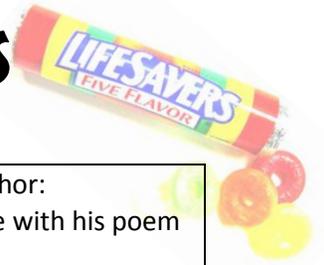
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<p>Title: Waiting for Godot Author: Samuel Beckett Date of Publication: 1952 Genre: Play(Tragic comedy)</p>	<p>Biographical information about author:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Won a small literature prize with his poem “whoroscope”.• Following the 1940 occupation by Germany, Beckett joined the French Resistance working as a courier.• For fighting for the German occupation, he was awarded the Croix de Guerre and the Me’daille la Résistance by French Government.• The two years in Roussillon, he helped the marquis sabotage the German army in the Vaucluse Mountain.• Scholars suggest that his war experiences might have been his inspiration for the play.
<p>Historical information about the period of publication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Published after WWII• 1952 Despite the war in Korea Americans considered themselves to be prospering with the average worker earning \$3,400 per year.• Yearly Inflation rate=2.29%• The Mau Mau rebellion starts in Kenya• Elizabeth II becomes queen of England• Britain announces it has Atomic Bomb• U.S.A president Election Dwight D. Eisenhower wins.• U.S detonates first Hydrogen Bomb code named “Mike”{“m” for megaton}	<p>Characteristics of the genre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Absurdist Fiction- is a genre of literature, most often employed in novels, plays or poems that focus on the experiences of characters in a situation where they cannot find any inherent purpose in life, most often represented by ultimately meaningless actions and events.• Modernism-Modern character or quality of thought, expression, or technique; a style or movement in the arts that aims to break with classical and traditional forms.• Drama-A prose or verse composition, especially one telling a serious story, that is intended for representation by actors impersonating the characters and performing the dialogue and action.• Surrealist-A 20th-century avant-garde movement in art and literature that sought to release the creative potential of the unconscious mind.





Plot summary:

- Two Friends Vladimir and Estragon meet near a tree after Estragon sleeps in a ditch because “they” beat him.
- Vladimir tells Estragon their waiting for Godot.
- Pozzo and Lucky Stop where Vladimir and Estragon are and they converse with them.
- Pozzo and Lucky are going to a market where Lucky can be sold.
- Pozzo Commands Lucky to perform for their Guest by dancing and thinking.
- A boy calls Vladimir Mr. Albert and explains to him Godot won’t be arriving as planned instead, will be there tomorrow for sure.
- Vladimir and Estragon meet up the next night and wait for Godot.
- Pozzo and Lucky return except now Pozzo has no idea who the two men are and, he is now blind. Lucky is now dumb and has full control of Pozzo due to the fact that he no longer has vision to be the master.
- The Boy comes back but when he returns he doesn’t know Vladimir, so instead, they conclude it must have been his brother the day before; He sends him the message that Godot will come tomorrow.
- Vladimir decides to wait although Estragon suggests they hang themselves, when they try to with his belt it breaks.
- In the end Vladimir says they shall leave but they don’t move at all.

Describe the author’s style:

- **Ornate:**
- **Abstract**
- **Short Simple Sentences**

An example that demonstrates the style:

Ornate-Lucky-“Crowned by the Acacacademy of Anthropometry of essay-in-possy of Testew and Cunard (Samuel 45)”. This style is exhibited because it’s heavily and elaborately decorated.

Lucky-“I resume alas alas abandoned unfinished the skull the skull in Connemara in spite of the tennis (Samuel 47)”. This style is exhibited because its overembellished and too complicated.

Abstract-Estragon-“In a ditch-Beat me? Certainly they beat me (Samuel 2).”The style is exhibited because it only Existed in thought.

Boy-“Mr. Godot told me to tell you he won’t come this evening but surely to-morrow (Samuel 55)”. The style is exhibited as an idea but not having a physical or concrete existence.

Short Simple Sentences- Vladimir-“ I’m glad to see you back. I thought you were gone forever (Samuel 2)”. This style is exhibited due to the fact the diction was simple and not descriptive.

Estragon-“What about hanging ourselves? (Samuel 12)”. The style is exhibited because descriptive terms could have been incorporated to give a sense of Imagery.

Memorable Quotes





Quote	Significance
1. "Everything's dead but the tree (Samuel 107)".	1. This quote is significant because, when the play began in Act I everything was lifeless including the tree but, in Act II only the tree stands there full of life just with leaves on it yet it still stood in a desolate place-IRONY.
2. "Our Savior, two thieves, one is supposed to have been saved and the other...Damned (Samuel 6)".	2. This quote is significant due to the fact it's as if Vladimir is being depicted as the saved one because he truly believes in Godot while Estragon is portrayed as the damned one because he only mocks his belief in Godot and it's not a genuine belief in him- yet Estragon still compares himself to a Biblical Figure.
3. "We got rid of them (Samuel 15) ".	3. This quote is significant because Vladimir acknowledges the fact that when he set fourth all his trust and belief in Godot he gave up his rights, therefore he doesn't commit any acts even if they are trivial; he is not willing to lose his savior's plan he has set for him.
4. "Why don't we hang ourselves (Samuel 108)".	4. This quote is significant due to the fact that when Godot didn't arrive as planned on the second day of waiting, Estragon was prepared to give up on life; it proves he never had a genuine faith in Godot because if he did he would of knew that Godot would eventually arrive and take them away from this barren world where he had no longer knew the meaning of his life- to be precise the meaning of life all together.
5. " Christ did" & " All my life I've compared myself to him "	5. The significance of this quote is that when he removed his boots he said Christ did so therefore the Christ Figure is not a significant being visualized by Estragon but simply a recognizable form of human suffering.

Characters

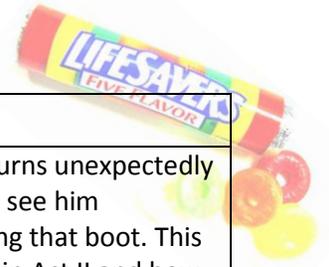
Name	Role in the story	Significance	Adjectives
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Role in the story includes simple character descriptions. King Claudius was Hamlet's step-father and uncle who killed Hamlet's father to gain the throne and the marriage of Queen Gertrude. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> His significance is that he was a central character who secretly struggled with hidden guilt and sin and that he served as a foil for <u>Hamlet</u> since he acted on his desires instead of simply just thinking about them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjectives to describe him might include: conniving, guilty, shameless, evil.





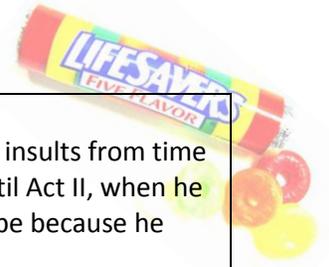
Vladimir	One of the main characters, nickname is Didi, he is more mature and is the responsible one.	His significance is that he knew about Godot and told Estragon that's why they were waiting. If Vladimir wasn't around Estragon wouldn't know how to survive because they need each other.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mature• Passive• Responsible
Estragon	The Second of the main characters, his nickname is Gogo. He has poor memory and is fragile.	His significance is that he is a central character that depends on Vladimir for protection. Also, he doesn't truly believe in Godot but Vladimir told him that's why their waiting yet he doesn't leave.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arrogant• Helpless• Clingy
Lucky	He is pozzo slave who carries his bags and stool.	His significance is that in Act I he was the slave that did what he was commanded to but, in Act two he is actually considered the "Master" in a sense because he has full control- without lucky, pozzo wouldn't survive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uneducated• Tamed• Obedient
Pozzo	He is a man that passes by where Didi and Gogo are waiting who has his slave with him.	His significance is that he is a minor character that meets Didi and Gogo while with his Slave and shows them how powerful he is by being able to control a man yet; in Act II he loses all control when he goes blind.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demanding• Vulnerable• Aggressive
Godot	The man that Vladimir and Estragon are waiting on.	The significance of Godot is that he is a powerful man that can take Vladimir and Estragon from the desolate world; Holds all control.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Powerful• Unknown





Setting	Significance of the opening scene
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A country Road, over the span of two nights, Unknown time and place. • The presence of the Tree and rock. 	<p>In the opening scene Estragon returns unexpectedly and while Vladimir is overjoyed to see him Estragon's only concern is removing that boot. This scene is foreshadowing his return in Act II and how it's unpleasant for Estragon due to the fact that he needed Vladimir for protection yet he was nowhere to be found. Also, this interconnects to one of the themes Dependency Vs. Independent therefore Proving that they may throw each other insults; but they rely on one another for Survival, Protection and companionship.</p>
Symbols	Significance of ending/closing scene
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pozzo asks who Godot is Estragon says, "Personally I wouldn't even know him if I saw him". This quote is depicting the apostle peter answer when he asked whether he knew Christ. • The tree is bare in Act I when Vladimir and Estragon arrive then in Act II the stage excerpt says, "Four or five leaves". This is Symbolizing a sign of hope that even in desolate places, hope will still be illuminated and that new life won't disappear. • Godot Symbolizes God due to the fact that Vladimir speaks of him as "Savior" and says, "We'll be saved". God is the only powerful being that possess a source of power to redeem someone and Shed light on the darkness. 	<p>In the Closing scene Estragon Suggest they hang there selves due to the fact Godot didn't show up. This is significant because it directly interconnects with one of my quotes that states it proves Estragon never had genuine faith because if he did he would have had faith that Godot would eventually arrive and not quickly have a solution to hang there selves. Also, it connects to my Religion Vs. Reason because Estragon doesn't know what he believes in; blind faith. Therefore, it results in him disconnecting himself from whatever form of belief he had in Godot and suggesting they commit suicide.</p> <p>Old AP Questions 2006- Write an Essay discussing how the Author uses Literary Techniques to reveal the speaker's attitude toward religion. 2007-Write a well-organized essay in which you analyze the techniques the poet used to convey his attitude towards the places he described. 2003- Write a well- organized essay on which you explain what this delusion or eccentric behavior consist of and how it might be judged reasonable.</p>
Possible Themes	





- **Dependency Vs. Independent**

Vladimir and Estragon depend on each other to survive; Although they exchange insults from time to time they still value each other's company. Pozzo seems to not need Lucky until Act II, when he goes blind at that point Lucky is all Pozzo has for survival and lucky is tied to a rope because he doesn't want to get abandoned.

- **Religion Vs. Reason**

Estragon attempts to understand religion but is left in the dark, and it's tied to the uncertainty of knowing if Godot is real or not; not knowing what is true in the realm faith-Blind Faith.

- **Search for meaning Vs. Hope**

Vladimir and Estragon are homeless men attempting to find an answer to human beings: what is the meaning of life? Godot may be their answer. They wait for Godot for two days but he doesn't show, they plan to leave but don't move. Apparently they either have hope or are still determined to find out the meaning of life, either way they continue to wait for Godot.

