

Ministry of Higher education
University of Tikrit
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*An Introduction to Drama, One Act Play
and Hamlet*

English Department

Third Stage

First Semester

Instructor
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Is this play comedy or tragedy? Why?

This play is tragedy because:

- a) the whole atmosphere of the play represents fear from the unknown future and misery.
- b) The mother herself is a widow who lost her husband and all of her sons.
- c) Bartley dies at the end.
- d) The sea threatens the life of all villagers.

The role of the priest in the play.

The actions of this play take place in a small village where villagers have to work very hard to provide their families with the simple needs that keep them alive. These villagers are Christian and they believe in God. So they go to the village church on Sundays where they usually meet the priest who plays a very great role in their lives. He represents the church which is considered God's house. He receives the bundle from the two fishermen and gives it to the sisters. He tries to convince Bartley to stay in the island. He is highly honored and respectable man. All the villagers respect him and look highly of him.

The Use of Symbolism in This Play:

The playwright uses many symbols to prepare us for Bartley death:-

- ◆ the weather was very bad. The wind was blowing and the sea waves were roaring
- ◆ The cake which the sisters were baking, was burnt.
- ◆ the rope which Bartley wanted to use as a holder was going to be used for carrying his dead body
- ◆ The boards which were used for making Bartley's coffin.
- ◆ Bartley puts on Michael's shirt which indicates that he will join his

brother in death.

- ◆ The mother's vision was an evidence of Bartley's death, as she could not bless her two sons who were riding the two horses.
- ◆ The mother's prophetic words anticipated the death of her son; she said that she would never see him alive again.
- ◆ The drops of water symbolized the power of the sea and its ability to kill the fishermen of the island.

The Rising Action. The Climax The Falling Action:

The Rising Action:

Bartley insists on leaving the island without listening us by to the advices of others. Bartley's he had weather, playwright who uses some symbols like the rope, the bad weather, the cake, Michael's shirt and the boards.

The Climax

As the mother recalls her husband's and her sons' death, the villagers enter the cottage carrying Bartley's body who is killed by the horse which is supposed to give him bright future.

The Falling Action:

The mother is a strong believer in God. She accepts the idea of Bartley's death, believing that it is the will of God. People cannot live forever as they are mortal.

The Themes of the Play:

1- The Theme of the Sea:

The sea is one of nature's elements. It is valuable and useful source of living. The fishermen depend mainly on what they get from the sea such as pearls, corals and fish. The poor fishermen take everything from the sea, but they have to pay for it. In this sense the sea becomes a source or a cause of death. It threatens : Bartley when he decides to leave the island. The power of sea can clearly be seen in the drops of water that come down from the dead body.

2- The Theme of Life and Death:

The mother leads a very miserable life in a small cottage. She suffers a lot just to provide her sons and daughters with a good life. She was very happy as her sons were living with her. Suddenly she loses her husband, her father-in-law, and her sons. So her life is just like a short dream. She is very sad but she has to go on living. The sisters talk about death as an ordinary thing. They are making a cake for the coffin maker. So life goes in spite of death.

3- The Theme of Passion and Patience:

The mother loves her sons deeply. She suffers a lot to bring them back. They were good and strong fishermen. She prays all the time asking God to protect them. She is unable to sleep at night and she prays a lot when one of them is missing. She is shocked when Bartley dies but she does not lose her faith in God. She accepts his will and realizes that death is a natural end for all human beings. In fact she believes that she is better than other wives and mothers, and she now has nothing to lose or worry about.