

Hello students, I'm miss Archana Kumar,
assistant professor of English at Rosary
College of Commerce and Arts Nowlin.

And today we shall be looking at the play
waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett.

The outline of the module is as follows.

We shall first look at the themes in
the play followed by the characters in
the play and conclusion at the end of
this module you shall be acquainted
with the characters and the themes.

Some of the prominent themes
in the play waiting for guru.

The first character that we come across.

Some major character is estragon.

Estragon is a weak character. He is.

We always seem helpless on his own.

Always seems struggling to take off his
boots and very dependent on Vladimir.

He has no sense of time or day.

He's always confused whether

it's morning or evening.

Quote his dialogue to you.

You're sure it was this evening.

Vladimir says what that we were to wait.

And is it Saturday?

Is it not rather Sunday or Monday?

Through these dialogues we realize

that Astragon has no sense of time,

location or day.

He is all the time confused

and dependent on Vladimir.

Estrogen also cannot remember his own past.

He keeps forgetting they are

waiting for Gordo and insist on

living every now and then.

He's also bitten up by somebody at

night and this information is related

to Vladimir in the next morning.

He also insists on leaving every

now and then you look you,

you hear him saying to Vladimir,

let's go and Vladimir says we can't, why not?

We are waiting for Godot.

It's Vladimir who has to constantly

remind him that they're waiting for

a person called Gordo to arrive.

The second character that we

will look at is Vladimir.

Vladimir is the companion of Estragon.

We see both of them beating on the

roadside on a lonely Rd, so to speak.

Greeting for this person to

arrive compared to estragon.

He is more rational and sensible,

and he has better memory.

He remembers more.

He remembers that they're waiting for Godot.

He remembers what time or day it is.

And he remembers seeing people.

For example, he tells Estragon we know them.

I tell you, you forget everything.

He's also.

He also is horrified at how Pozzo treats.

Lucky Pozzo is a master and lucky is a slave.

And you see these two people traveling on
the road and they meet these two characters.

And then when?

When Vladimir sees Pozo being Pozo,

treating lucky so badly,

he is horrified at this and

says to treat a man like that.

I think it scandal.

Vladimir is also constantly reminding

Estragon that they are waiting for Godot,

hence they cannot leave.

He's of course Co.

Dependent on estragon and feels

lonely without him and keeps waking

him up every time he falls asleep.

In fact, there's a. There's a.

There's a scene in the play where

Estragon wakes up angrily because

Vladimir has woken Imam and Radomir

says I'm glad to see you back.

I thought you were gone forever.

The other two characters in the play who come together are lucky and Poser lucky is a slave of Pozo and Pozo. Is his master.

You see? Lucky being led by a rope where Pozo is reading him?

He's terribly treated and called pig by Pozo, mostly silent unless forced to speak in the play.

We see him speaking once where he delivers a lengthy, nonsensical monologue.

He stands for a figure of physical suffering and exploitation in the play.

In act one, he entertains the rest of the group by dancing and thinking aloud and in Act 2 he's dumb.

Bozo, on the other hand, is the master of Lucky.

He treats him like a slave very
terribly abuses him all the time.

He tells the others that

Lucky chooses to be a slave.

When questioned by Estragon and Vladimir.

Why would lucky choose this

kind of full life?

Pozo defends himself by saying that

there is a kind of like a lucky chooses.

Has it not the right to leave?

Certainly he hears it follows

that he doesn't want to.

This is what he says.

The roles of these two characters

kind of reverse in Act 2.

Where in act two we see both these.

Both these characters coming again on stage,

and this time Pozo is blind and

dependent on lucky to lead him.

The last two characters that we come

across in the play are Godo and the boy,

Godot is kind of one of the most prominent figures in the play.

Even though he never actually appears in the play,

we hear about him all the time through

the words of Estragon and Vladimir.

He also features in the title of the play,

Waiting for Godot.

Vladimir believes that only

God can save them.

We have no idea what he's talking about.

He is often assumed to be a symbolic

representation of God by many,

many critics over the years or readers

over the years have assumed that waiting

for Godot probably means waiting for God,

but of course this thought

was categorically denied by the

author Beckett himself.

The entire play is about

Vladimir and Estragon,

waiting for this one person,

Godot, to arrive.

But he never does.

And with this thought,

we finished both the acts and the play.

The last character that we

will look at is the boy.

This boy appears in their plate

twice to relay messages from

Godot to Vladimir and Estragon.

He, of course,

does not remember meeting

Vladimir Anakku and cleans.

It could be his brother.

These are some of the themes

in waiting for Godot.

The play has meaningless plot.

This nonsensical language

and illogical speech.

There is no characterization

on character development.

You see characters questioning the existence

and there are no complex characters.

Let us look at each of them in detail.

Meaningless plot waiting for Godot

has no beginning, no middle, no ends.

The play. A play is supposed to,

by definition of play,

is supposed to have a beginning,

middle and end to have a complex story.

But this play does not have act

two is a repetition of act one.

Whatever happens in act one

happens in act two, act one.

Also, we see this character is waiting

for this person Godo, to arrive and act.

One ends with the line where Bladimir

says let's go and estrogens is here.

And they do not move and act.

Two also ends on the same note,

Esteban and Vladimir in the

play they passed their time.

They meet lucky and Pozzo

and get entertained.

It's a distraction.

They receive God's message that

he will arrive the next day,

they decide to leave,

but they do not actually move.

The play starts with waiting

and ends with waiting.

A critic once said of this play waiting for

Godot is a play where nothing happens twice.

Why?

So?

Because it's a play in two acts.

The second theme that we will look that we

can see in the play is nonsensical language.

You read the play and you wonder what

are these characters trying to convey.

Most dialogues have no meaning.

Are repetitive leading the plain no further.

You see, characters like Estragon says,

shall we go?

And Vladimir says yes,

let's go, but they do not move.

And you wonder why has the author

written this line if he does not

want to progress the play at all.

The third thing that we will look

at is lack of characterization.

Estragon Vladimir Lucky,

Pozzo and Godo.

They do not grow during the

course of the play.

The whole point of having

characters in any book or a play

is to show character development.

They at least progress in the play,

but this play, the character's progress.

The characters have no progression,

nor do they engage in any motivated action.

Their dialogues or talks

communicate nothing meaningful.

We have no idea about their past

or their purpose in the plane.

The fourth thing that we will

look at is question of existence.

We see Estragon and Vladimir

constantly questioning their life.

Why are they waiting for Godot and

sometimes even contemplating suicide?

There is a scene in the play where you

see Estragon and Vladimir trying to hang

themselves by the tree using their own bed,

and the scene is said to

be put for Comic Relief.

But you see the question of

existence theme portrayed there.

The last thing is absence of theme.

A play.

Usually most plays usually have

a theme on which it is based,

but this play has no apparent

meaning or idea in the play.

One understands nothing after the play ends.

Conclusion absurd plays deal

with the theme of existentialism,

questioning life,

the questioning the existence of

men in the play waiting for Godot.

Human condition is shown as

dismal and distressful.

You look at men's struggling to live or

rather exist in a hostile and uncaring world.

When you look at Esteban

and Vladimir struggling,

waiting for Godo on the road,

looking at the looking into their shoes,

looking into their head,

just struggling and waiting on the road,

you kind of wonder that is how human life is.

We we see looking we see human

struggling every day to live

in a world that does not care.

And this is probably how people,

especially soldiers,
fell during the world wars,
fighting battles and people with
whom there is no connection with you.

Look at the world, the war that is
happening right now in the country,
Ukraine and Russia.

And this is how probably people of
Ukraine probably feel that they
are living in a world where the
rest of the world does not care
about what's happening to them,
rather made and estragon are
blissfully and painfully oblivious
to their own condition.

They have no idea of the life
kind of life they're living.

They go about repeating their
actions every day,
unaware of the monotony and
captivity of it all.

Estragon and Vladimir are symbolic
caricatures of the mass of humanity.

The working class masses.

They always waiting for

someone to lead living,

monotonous lives of routine and annoying.

The absurdities were all atheists,

all the absurdist writers like Eugene Enesco,

Jean Genet, Harold Pinter, Samuel Beckett.

They were all atheists.

So this play is a satire on the

Christian belief in a kind and

loving omnipotent seed supreme

being and also of the second coming.

Every moment mankind waits for

some sign and hope that he is

suffering will end and every day

that sign and hope does not arrive.

Even in the play we see Vladimir and

Estragon waiting for Godot to arrive.

But he never does.

But every day they wait nevertheless.

This is some of the references to the play.

I hope you will read the play

and understand it better.

Thank you so much.