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Professor Hale

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SOflA Project

incorporate
play title

The Pride Begets the Fall

“Well, women are used to worrying over trifles,” says Mr. Hale in Susan Glaspell’s 1916 play, “Trifles.” While demeaning women and their concerns is criticized as sexist in the twenty-first century, mere decades ago people accepted it as common and even a given. Since the male-dominated society considered women’s tasks less important than men’s, men subsequently treated women with a lack of consideration. In the 20th century drama “Trifles,” Glaspell challenges the suppression in effect during her lifetime, basing the play on a series of news stories she wrote about the real-life court case of a woman prosecuted for murdering her husband. In “Trifles,” Glaspell uses symbolism to show how ^{that men male} sexism causes a lack of empathy which leads to men’s failures as much as women’s. and obscures men’s understanding of women’s motivations, ultimately causing men’s failures.

23 ^{Quinn}

much better, but condense

From the first scene to the shocking discovery to the final line, Glaspell uses ^{spatial} symbolism to reason her case about the detrimental effects of men’s stereotypes of women. The initially ^{According to the stage direction} timid female characters, Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters “...come in slowly, and stand close together near the door,” clearly displaying a reluctance to enter a widow’s empty home. However, as Mr. Hale, the sheriff and the county attorney “go at once to the stove,” they discuss what happened the previous day. When Mr. Hale had first knocked on the door to request Mr. Wright’s help, he tentatively entered when he thought he heard “come in”; now that Mr. Wright is gone, Hale and his male companions have no qualms about entering the house that now belongs solely to Mrs. Wright. The different movements of the characters and resulting space symbolizes the

mention the symbol

Good evidence