

## APOLOGIA TEACHER'S PACK

*PLEASE NOTE: This pack includes research material as well as classroom activities , multiple choice questions and open questions. Please cut and paste sections to suit your needs and consider which pages you need before printing. More information can also be found in the official programme*

### APOLOGIA

[ap-uh-loh-jee-uh]

Firstly, how do we say it? See this youtube link  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ftYEAiHo3Gs>

Definition: an apology, as in defense or justification of a belief or idea.  
*In literature it is* a work written as  
an explanation or justification of one's motives, convictions, or acts.

### SYNOPSIS

Kristin Miller is an eminent and successful art historian in her sixties. As a young mother she followed her politics and vocation, storming Parisian barricades and moving to Florence. Now she has written a book about her life – a book that fails to mention her two children, Peter and Simon. So when her sons and their partners, Trudi and Claire, gather at Kristin's cottage in the countryside to celebrate her birthday, she finds herself ambushed by their very different versions of the past. Over the course of the evening, everyone must confront the cost of Kristin's commitment to her passions.

### EXTENDED SYNOPSIS

*David Benedict from Variety.com*

A renowned Renaissance art historian in her 60s, Kristin is celebrating not only her birthday with her sons and their girlfriends but the publication of her highly praised memoir. Her book stands as a testament to her idealism and individualism, which grew out of radical 1960s politics and the power struggles that saw men dominating thinking and action.

Her sons Peter and Simon take a very different view from critics and readers. They believe she has rewritten history because they have been wholly excluded from her version of events. But what makes the play so interesting is Campbell's juggling act. Instead of writing a debate play, he vividly dramatizes Kristin's driven sense of dedication via alternately hilarious and painfully touching struggles of long-simmering family resentment.

The most excitingly dangerous of dramatists don't so much play with fire as plant bombs to create suspense. But the secret of making long-range explosions of character or plot lies in the timing, and one of the most cunning aspects of "Apologia" is the unpredictable timing of its bombs.

Almost comically aware of treading down familiar paths, Campbell uses audience expectation to winning effect. Across scenes of a naturalistic dinner party, a late-night

confrontation and the morning after, the playwright confounds audience notions of where a character, a revelation or a scene will lead. Yet both the structure and play are the opposite of tricky.

A rare depth of compassion is what's actually being provided.

But this is typical misdirection. A far subtler game of gradually shifting perspective is actually being played and, by the end, the balance of sympathies has swung in completely unexpected directions. The uncovering of past behavior and motives allows every character to be seen in dimensions bordering on the Chekhovian.

And, like Chekhov, Campbell refuses to accept the theatrical tyranny of neatness. Hearts are shockingly poured out, but the airing of long-suppressed feelings doesn't lead to obvious conclusions. That's most telling in the handling of Simon.

His confronting of his mother and his recounting of a frightening night when he was left alone as an 11-year-old boy in an Italian train station is astonishingly evocative. Light couples fierce self-control to a shiveringly upsetting sense of hope as Simon forces Kristin to understand his fear and loss. But what makes the scene so remarkable is its tenderness. It's not the events of the story that are crucial; it's the transfixing detail in the writing that makes it so powerful.

"Why can't you just respect the fact that people don't always see things the way you do?" cries Peter. The true pleasure of "Apologia" is the reverse of that: Campbell's mature ability to let the audience see everyone's perspective. His vision not only makes for a richly entertaining evening, it blows the notion of Second Play Syndrome out of the water.

## **CHARACTERS**

Kristin Miller

An Art historian in her sixties. She has settled in England but travelled across Europe as an Art historian. She is an accomplished author who has just had her memoirs published. She is Peter and Simon's mother but she did not live with her family in England. Her sons grew up with her estranged husband (their father).

Peter

Is the older brother. He works in banking and has recently become a born again Christian. He is planning to marry his American fiancé Trudi.

Simon

Is the younger brother. Simon seems to be depressed and unable to hold down a job. He is Claire's boyfriend, although he knows she is cheating on him.

Hugh

Is an old friend of Kristen's. They have known each other for 42 years and used to support the same causes in their youth. He is a source of humour in the play, often supplying us with funny one liners.

Claire

Claire is Simon's girlfriend. She considers herself a serious actress, although she is in a soap opera. She has expensive taste despite of, or perhaps as a result of her humble beginnings.

Trudi

Trudi is an American physiotherapy student who met Peter at a prayer meeting and is now engaged to him. She initially seems to be a typical American airhead, but she surprises us at the end with her profound commentary.

### ALEXI KAYE CAMPBELL

Alexi's first play **The Pride** premiered at the Royal Court Theatre Upstairs in November 2008 for which he was awarded the Critic's Circle Prize for Most Promising Playwright and the John Whiting Award for Best New Play. The production was also awarded the Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in an affiliate theatre.

**The Pride** then transferred to America and was produced at MCC Theatre in New York in January 2010, directed by Joe Mantello. In June 2011 a revival of **The Pride** was produced at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, directed by Richard Wilson. In autumn 2013 another revival of **The Pride**, directed by Jamie Lloyd, enjoyed a successful run in the West End of London before embarking on a national tour.

His second play **Apologia** opened at the Bush Theatre in the summer of 2009, directed by Josie Rourke. **Apologia** was short-listed for The John Whiting Award and nominated for Best Play at the Writers Guild Awards 2009. Alexi's third play **The Faith Machine**, directed by Jamie Lloyd, premiered at the Royal Court Theatre in August 2011 to excellent reviews. In June 2013 his fourth play, **Bracken Moor**, was produced by Shared Experience at the Tricycle Theatre in London, and was directed by Polly Teale. In 2016 Alexi's play **Sunset at the Villa Thalia** was produced at the National Theatre in a production directed by Simon Godwin and starring Ben Miles and Elizabeth McGovern.

In August 2017 a revival of **Apologia** was produced at the Trafalgar Studios in London, directed by Jamie Lloyd and starring Stockard Channing. **Apologia** was then produced at the Roundabout Theatre in New York, directed by Daniel Aukin. Alexi's plays have been produced in many countries, including Australia, Germany, Sweden, Greece, Japan, South Korea and Belgium. Alexi wrote the feature film **Woman in Gold**, directed by Simon Curtis and starring Helen Mirren and Ryan Reynolds, with BBC Films and Origin Pictures. It was the highest earning independent film of 2015.

### INTERTEXTUAL REFERENCES

Intertextual references are references made to other texts, written or otherwise, being mentioned during the play. In **Apologia** there are many references that highlight the themes of the play.

Activity: Have students select a reference and decide upon the theme that it represents.

Activity: Listen carefully and list the references that you can remember after watching the play.

**Giotto di Bondone** (c.1267–January 8 1337), usually known as **Giotto**, was an Italian painter and architect from Florence. He is generally thought of as the first in a line of great artists of the Italian Renaissance.

Giovanni Villani, who lived at the same time as Giotto, wrote that he was the king of painters, who drew all his figures as if they were alive.

In the 16th century, the biographer Giorgio Vasari says that Giotto changed painting from the Byzantine style of other artists of his day, and brought to life the great art of painting as it was made by the later Renaissance painters like Leonardo da Vinci. This was because Giotto drew his figures from life, rather than copying the style them from old well-known pictures in the way that the Byzantine artists like Cimabue and Duccio did.

Giotto's greatest work is the decoration of the *Scrovegni Chapel* in Padua, finished around 1305. The building is sometimes called the "Arena Chapel" because it is on the site of an Ancient Roman arena. This fresco series shows the life of the Virgin and the life of Christ. It is thought of as one of the greatest masterpieces of the Early Renaissance.

Although Vasari wrote about Giotto's life, it is not known how many of the stories are true, because Vasari was writing more than 200 years after Giotto died. Only two things are known for certain. It is known that in 1334 Giotto was chosen by the "commune" (town council) of Florence to design the bell tower next to Florence Cathedral which was being built at that time. It is also known for certain that Giotto painted the "Arena Chapel". But no-one can be certain where he was born, who his teacher was, what he looked like, whether he really painted the famous frescos at Assisior where he was buried when he died.



## HUMANISM

**Humanism** is a philosophy or a way of thinking about the world. Humanism is a set of ethics or ideas about how people should live and act. People who hold this set of ethics are called humanists.

In modern times, humanism is close to secularism. It refers to a non-theistic approach to life, looking to science instead of religion in order to understand the world.

The first *Humanist Manifesto* was issued by a conference held at the University of Chicago in 1933. It said humanism was an ideology of reason, ethics, and social and economic justice. It called for science to replace dogma and the supernatural as the basis of morality and decision-making.

Views held by many humanists include:

- Humans deserve respect. Every human should be treated with respect and allowed to have dignity. If all people act with respect for others, then people will live in peace and trust.
- People should all be able to decide how they want to live their lives. They should use reasoning to make decisions and solve problems.
- Humanists decide what choices are good by whether those choices will help make human life better and the world around them.

### Humanism: A History

Humanist ideas were discussed in Ancient Greece, from Thales to Anaxagoras and Protagoras. The teachings of Zarathushtra and Lao Tzu had strong elements of humanism, and there are many other examples.

The writings of the ancient Greeks were studied in the 1400s during the Renaissance. However, in this period the term "humanism" came to mean educated in the humanities, a rather different kind of idea. Petrarch is often cited as the first modern humanist, but he pointed backwards to classical authors. The modern meaning of humanism is more to do with using science to make the world a better place. A comment by the English mathematician and philosopher Alfred North Whitehead in 1925 was

"The prophecy of Francis Bacon has now been fulfilled; and man, who at times dreamt of himself as a little lower than the angels, has submitted to become the servant and the minister of nature. It still remains to be seen whether the same actor can play both parts".<sup>[5]</sup>

### A DOLL'S HOUSE

**Henrik Johan Ibsen** (born 20 March 1828 - 23 May 1906) was a Norwegian playwright. He is often called the "father of modern drama."

Ibsen is held to be the greatest of Norwegian authors and one of the most important playwrights of all time, celebrated as a national symbol by Norwegians. His greatest works can be said to be "A Doll's House" or "Enemy of the People."



### Summary of A Doll's House

Henrik Ibsen describes the story of a married woman who considered her life to be quite satisfied with her husband in their **"doll house"** of which she is the doll. However, with the development of the play, she is insulted by her husband for a forgery that she did for his sake, even after knowing the truth.

When the matter is solved, her husband tried to calm her down, but she becomes aware of her status in the **"doll's house"** and at once leaves it. Thus she is the modern woman who fights against the gender discrimination

*A Doll's House* is a modern tragedy released in 1879 by Norwegian writer Henrik Ibsen. Composed of three acts, the play is set in a Norwegian town of the author's present day and mainly concerns Nora and Torvald Helmer, whose marriage implodes under the weight of Nora's emotional, social, and political subjugation by Europe's regressive gender norms. The play is well known for exploring the married woman's bleak plight in a world dominated by men, shedding light on a problem that was underexposed in the late nineteenth century

A play about society's deep internalization of male supremacy, *A Doll's House* illuminates the irony that it can be both obvious and unconscious. Nora's inner turmoil festers as she is repeatedly dismissed by Torvald, leading to a tipping point where she realizes she can only reclaim her voice by leaving the oppressive domestic world.

### ANNA KARENINA

**Anna Karenina** is a novel by the Russian author Leo Tolstoy, first published in book form in 1878. Many authors consider *Anna Karenina* the greatest work of literature ever written, and Tolstoy himself called it his first true novel. It was initially released in serial installments from 1873 to 1877 in the periodical *The Russian Messenger*.

A complex novel in eight parts, with more than a dozen major characters, it is spread over more than 800 pages (depending on the translation), typically contained in two volumes. It deals with themes of betrayal, faith, family, marriage, Imperial Russian society, desire, and rural vs. city life. The plot centers on an extramarital affair between Anna and dashing cavalry officer Count Alexei Kirillovich Vronsky that scandalizes the social circles of Saint Petersburg and forces the young lovers to flee for Italy in a futile search for happiness. Returning to Russia, their lives further unravel.

Trains are a recurring motif throughout the novel, which takes place against the backdrop of rapid transformations as a result of the liberal reforms initiated by Emperor Alexander II of Russia, with several major plot points taking place either on passenger trains or at stations in Saint Petersburg or elsewhere in Russia. The novel has been adapted into various media including opera, film, television, ballet, figure skating and radio drama. The first of many film adaptations was released in 1911 but has not survived.

Anna Arkadyevna Karenina is romantic and has a very strong character. For example, she likes to write children's books and admires art. She is described as being very beautiful, and there is a lot of energy in her. She loves her son very, very, much, and this is one of the biggest reasons why she is afraid of running away with Vronsky. Although she does not love

her husband, Karenin, she feels sorry and guilty. However, she says that "I hate him for his virtues!" She is emotionally honest and really does not like to pretend. She thinks that Karenin loves to pretend, and this is one of the greatest reasons why she does not like him. She thinks that love is more important than anything, even duty.

**ALEXANDER POPE** (21 May 1688– 30 May 1744)

**"To err is human, to forgive divine"** This quote is mentioned in the play, albeit mistakenly. It means that all people commit sins and make mistakes. God forgives them, and people are acting in a godlike (**divine**) way when they **forgive**. This saying is from "An Essay on Criticism," by Alexander Pope. **Pope** (21 May 1688– 30 May 1744) is generally regarded as the greatest English poet of the eighteenth century. He is best known for his satirical verse and for his translation of Homer. He is the third most frequently quoted writer in *The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*, after Shakespeare and Tennyson. Pope was a master of the heroic couplet.

### GEORGE ELIOT

**Mary Anne Evans** (22 November 1819 – 22 December 1880; alternatively **Mary Ann** or **Marian**), known by her pen name **George Eliot**, was an English novelist, poet, journalist, translator, and one of the leading writers of the Victorian era. She wrote seven novels, including *Adam Bede* (1859), *The Mill on the Floss* (1860), *Silas Marner* (1861), *Romola* (1862–63), *Middlemarch* (1871–72), and *Daniel Deronda* (1876), most of which are set in provincial England and known for their realism and psychological insight.

Although female authors were published under their own names during her lifetime, she wanted to escape the stereotype of women's writing being limited to lighthearted romances. She also wanted to have her fiction judged separately from her already extensive and widely known work as an editor and critic. Another factor in her use of a pen name may have been a desire to shield her private life from public scrutiny, thus avoiding the scandal that would have arisen because of her relationship with the married George Henry Lewes.



Eliot was by no means a misogynist, but she did have some harsh words for fellow women writers. In an anonymous essay titled "Silly Novels by Lady Novelists," Eliot lamented the frivolous characters and unrealistic plots that she argued were nearly ubiquitous features of novels written by women at the time. Published in *The Westminster Review* in 1856, Eliot's essay asserted that these books, full of clichés and improbable romantic endings, made educated women look foolish. She also criticized the writing style of other women of her time, saying they mistook "vagueness for depth, bombast for eloquence, and affectation for originality." However, she did allow that not every book written

by a woman fell into this trap, praising writers like Currer Bell (Charlotte Brontë) and Elizabeth Gaskell.

### **KARL MARX**

**Karl Heinrich Marx** (5 May 1818 in Trier – 14 March 1883 in London) was a German political thinker who wrote about money (economics) and power (politics). Marx thought that if a place that works together runs on wage-labour, then there would always be class struggle. Marx thought that this class struggle would result in workers taking power. He believed that no one should have power over another, that everyone should be equal. His most famous book was the Communist Manifesto. He wrote it with Friedrich Engels in 1848. The book is about the ideas and aims of communism. His ideas are called Marxism.

His most important work is *Das Kapital*, or The Capital. It is commonly known in English as simply 'Capital.' He spent many years working on the three parts of the book. *Das Kapital* describes how "capitalism" works and the problems this creates, such as division of labour and exploitation. The book has led to many arguments between those who agree with the book and those who do not. Marx's ideas have been thought of as responsible for socialist revolutions (like the Russian Revolution).

Marx's most popular theory was his 'materialism'. He believed that religion, morality, social structures and other things are all rooted in economics. In his later life he was more tolerant of religion.

Karl Marx was born in Trier in 1818 but he had to move many times because the government did not like his ideas. Marx lived for a long time in London. He died there in 1883. After he died, his friend Engels finished many of his works.

Marx also wrote the *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844*, a critique of political economy in which he discusses topics such as labor wages, labor rent, and capital profit, and his ideas of how to change the economy, including proletarian socialist revolution and an eventual communist society.

Many people continue to follow and develop Marx's ideas.

### **VOCABULARY LIST**

**absence**- being away, not present

**adversity** – a difficult or unpleasant situation

**analogy**- an analogy is a comparison between two things which we think are similar in some way

**array** – order or arrangement

**to assuage** – to make (an unpleasant feeling) less intense

**Bang and Olufsen** – a high-end Danish consumer electronics company that designs and manufactures audio products, television sets and telephones

**bargepole** – a long pole used to keep a boat in motion

**Biba** – a London fashion store of the 1960s and 1970s

**carapace** – a protective, decorative or disguising shell

**churlish** – rude in a mean-spirited and surly way

**CND logo** – logo of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, known as the peace sign

**coiffed** – carefully arranged, styled hair



**commie** – *informal* short for communist

**to commiserate** – to feel or express sympathy

**to conk out** – to go to sleep very quickly, or to suddenly become unconscious

**contingency** – uncertainty, A provision or a plan for a possible event or circumstance.

**corker** – an excellent or astonishing person or thing

**cos lettuce** – a type of lettuce, romaine

**Courtauld** – The Courtauld Institute of Art, commonly referred to as The Courtauld, is a self-governing college of the University of London specializing in the study of the history of art and conservation

**didactic** – in the manner of a teacher, particularly so as to appear patronising

**discombobulated** – confused

**edifice** – a large, often impressive building

**endorphins** – chemicals naturally released in the brain to reduce pain, associated with happiness

**to expatriate** – to banish someone from their native country

**facetious** – treating serious issues with humour in an almost rude (impolite) way

**to forage** – to obtain (food or provisions) by searching

**furnace** – an enclosed structure in which material can be heated to high temperatures

**gaping hole** – a very big, wide hole; brainless

**to gnaw** – to bite at or nibble something persistently

**Greenham Common** – Royal Air Force Greenham Common or RAF Greenham Common is a former Royal Air Force station in Berkshire, England. The airfield was southeast of Newbury, Berkshire, about 55 miles (89 km) west of London

**Grosvenor Square** – Grosvenor Square is a large garden square in the very wealthy Mayfair district in London

**gruelling** – extremely tiring and demanding

**hammer-and-sickle-wielding** – metaphor for supporters of communism

**Imperatrix Kristina** – empress Kristina, referring to Kristin

**inane** – lacking sense or meaning; silly

**indelible** – cannot be removed; not able to be forgotten

**instigator** – a person who causes something to happen

**intemperate** – showing extreme and uncontrolled anger or violence

**irascible** – made angry easily, choleric

**jugular** – of the neck or throat, also short for jugular vein.

**Karl Marx** – German economist and philosopher, founder of modern communism who wrote the Communist Manifesto with Engels in 1848

**to lambaste** – to criticise harshly; to attack verbally

**meringue** – a dessert topping consisting of a baked mixture of stiffly beaten egg whites and sugar

**misanthropic** – marked by a hate or contempt for humankind

**monosyllabic** – word consisting of one syllable

**Monrovia** – the capital city of Liberia

**nascent** – coming or having recently come into existence

**to negate** – to deny the existence or truth of something

**NUM** – The National Union of Mineworkers, a trade union for coal miners in Great Britain that took part in three national miners' strikes, in 1972, 1974 and 1984-85

**ogress** – a female ogre; a monstrously ugly, cruel or barbarous woman

**to pillage** – to steal something using violence, especially in wartime

**pitchfork** – a tool with a long handle and two or three large curved metal points, used for moving hay or straw

**pivotal** – vitally important

**placard-carrying** – carrying posters

**plonk** – *informal* cheap wine

**to prod** – to poke with a finger, foot or pointed object

**to protrude** – to extend beyond or above a surface

**putrid** – rotten, foul

**queasy** – nauseous; feeling sick

**raison d'etre** – reason or justification for existence

**rampant** – marked by a menacing wildness, extravagance, or absence of restraint

**rejuvenation** – the process of making someone look or feel young and energetic again

**steeped in** – completely surrounded by or involved in something

**stifle** – make someone unable to breathe properly; suffocate

**to suss out** – *informal* to realise; grasp, figure something out  
**swaying in the pews** – swinging slowly back and forth in church benches  
**talking in tongues** – saying strange words that no one can understand, especially as part of a religious experience  
**to traipse** – to walk about casually or needlessly  
**trajectory** – the path followed by a projectile flying or an object moving  
**to transgress** – to go over or beyond a boundary, to violate a law  
**vacuous** – lacking ideas or intelligence  
**WRP** – The Workers Revolutionary Party, a far-left political party that split in the 1980s

### ACTIVITY

Which Word? Read the sentences and excerpts below and decide which word is missing. The words have been taken from the vocabulary list.

1. **CLAIRE** But then they find out corners were cut. In the construction of it. Shoddy work, that kind of thing. The \_\_\_\_\_ was weak.
2. **PETER:** What's your \_\_\_\_\_ plan?  
**KRISTIN:** \_\_\_\_\_ plan?  
**PETER:** I mean if it doesn't get any hotter. Pasta, or something?
3. **HUGH** With our lives stretched in front of us like scrolls waiting to be written upon in \_\_\_\_\_ ink.
4. **CLAIRE:** I watched him slowly drown in a sea of unpaid bills. When I was thirteen he was declared bankrupt. I used to come home every day after school and the bathroom door was always closed and the sound was always the same – the sound of my mother's stifled sobs. Then she'd come out with a smile on her face and cook dinner.
5. **KRISTIN:** Which tribe does it belong to? Was it made to conjure rain out of the sky or to bring punishment to those who had \_\_\_\_\_?
6. **TRUDI:** It was fascinating. And your book was informative and inspiring.  
**KRISTIN:** What a rich \_\_\_\_\_ of adjectives.
7. **KRISTIN:** So you're a Christian?  
**TRUDI:** Most of the people who go to the Christian Prayer Meetings usually are.  
**KRISTIN:** And Peter?

**TRUDI** I'm sorry, I'm being \_\_\_\_\_. But yes, Kristin Jesus is an important part of my life.

8. *on watching Claire's Television series:*

**KRISTIN:** And I have to now repeat, within the context of this particular conversation that it is the biggest pile of \_\_\_\_\_ shite I have ever seen in my life.

9. **KRISTIN** It was a little \_\_\_\_\_. I kept asking myself 'why do people watch this? And why do they make it?

10. **TRUDI:** Why does she have a picture of Marx in the bathroom?

**PETER:** She's an old \_\_\_\_\_. Having said that poor old Karl used to hang over the stairs but was recently demoted to the downstairs loo.

## QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PLAY

### MULTIPLE CHOICE:

1. How many characters are there in the play?
  - a. 6
  - b. 5
  - c. 4
2. How many actors are there
  - a. 6
  - b. 5
  - c. 4
3. Whose present did Kristin like the best?
  - a. Claire's
  - b. Hugh's
  - c. Trudi and Peter's
4. Where did the mask come from?
  - a. Namibia
  - b. Nigeria
  - c. Liberia
5. Where does the play take place?
  - a. Living room

- b. garden
  - c. kitchen
6. What is interesting about the design of the kitchen?
- a. There is a lot of glass
  - b. It is very dark
  - c. It is dirty
7. Why did Hugh get sick?
- a. He was allergic to Chinese food
  - b. He drank too much wine
  - c. He swallowed a fingernail
8. Who were the ones that understood Kristin the best?
- a. Trudi and Hugh
  - b. Simon and Trudi
  - c. Claire and Hugh
9. Claire thinks her job is quite
- a. Challenging
  - b. Cruel
  - c. Classy
10. What colour is Claire's dress?
- a. Green
  - b. Blue
  - c. Yellow
11. Who suggests Trudi should put some salt on the ruined dress?
- a. Hugh
  - b. Kristin
  - c. Peter
12. What does Hugh think about the mask?
- a. It's hideous
  - b. It's beautiful
  - c. It's extraordinary
13. Who says the countryside is beautiful?

- a. Claire
- b. Trudi
- c. Kristin

14. The designer of Claire's dress is from:

- a. Japan
- b. India
- c. China

15. Peter and Trudy arrive too early because

- a. They miscalculated the time
- b. There was a green wave
- c. There was no traffic

16. What do Trudi and Peter want to tell the family?

- a. That they are engaged
- b. That they are expecting a baby
- c. That they are moving to America

### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. The arrival: Are they early, late or punctual? Provide a reason for your answer.
2. Does Kristin like the name Trudi?
3. Why can't Trudi eat the meal?
4. What was Kristin making for dinner?
5. What did they have instead?
6. What did Trudi and Peter get as a gift? And where is it from?
7. **KRISTIN** It's not that I'm superstitious because I'm not. I just suppose I wish I knew something of the context in which it was created. Because its main purpose was definitely not decorative. So for it to be here, in this house, as a decorative object seems to be..how can I put this..disrespectful I suppose. Both of it and of the artist who created it.

What does Kristin want to know about the mask?

8. What does Kristin say that tells us the mask is not particularly beautiful?
9. What happens at the end of the play regarding the mask? What is its significance?
10. English speakers often use euphemisms (pleasant sounding code words) for very banal activities. What does Trudi say when she wants to use the toilet?
11. Does Kristin approve of Peter's job? Is she proud of him?

Find answers in the text below

**KRISTIN:** How's that awful bank you work for?

**PETER:** The bank is fine.

**KRISTIN:** Still raping the Third World?

**PETER:** If helping local initiatives and infrastructure projects off the ground is considered rape then, yes, brutally.

**KRISTIN:** I was thinking that in the present climate your job would have lost some of its allure. Not much dignity in being bailed out is there? I was hoping you were going to pack it all in and grow your own vegetables. Teach yoga. Anything. You've always looked awkward in a suit. Then I can be proud to call you my son again.

**PETER:** Please don't moralise. You know nothing about what I do.

**KRISTIN:** I know you're with the takers and not the givers.

12. In contrast, what does Simon do?
13. How many jobs has he had in the last three months?
14. Trudi talks about a beautiful picture of "the old man above the toilet". Who is the picture of?
15. Where was the picture hanging before?
16. Peter says his mother is : Opinionated, didactic, dictatorial.  
Can you give examples of this?
17. What is Trudi studying?
18. Where did Trudi and Peter meet?
19. Does Kristin approve of how they met?

20. Trudi keeps trying to make small talk. How does Kristin respond?
21. Who was the American president at the time of the play?
22. What does Kristin call God?
23. Why does Kristin love Giotto?
24. Who is Claire and what does she do? What is her good news?
25. Why isn't Simon at the party?
26. What has Claire bought Kristin for a gift? Do you think it is an appropriate gift?
27. What has Hugh given as a gift?
28. What demonstration is referred to?
29. Kristin objects to Claire using the word "hilarious". Why does she feel this way?
30. Claire uses the metaphor of a building when talking about Simon, and Peter agrees. What is meant by this?
31. Trudi is often trying to make peace and playing "devil's advocate". What does this phrase mean and why is it ironic?
32. Claire is wearing an expensive dress. How much did it cost? Find something on the UK site for ebay that costs this much.
33. What happens to the dress?
34. When Claire is talking about working, Hugh mentions "Down the mines" Why does he say this?
35. What is interesting about Kristin and Claire's phones? Why is this important?
36. Kristin saw Claire perform in another play. What was this play and why do you think the author chose to mention this particular play?
37. What do they think of German theatre?
38. Why does Kristin have a problem with Claire calling herself an artist?
39. Look up the phrase *to air dirty laundry*. What does it mean and when is it used in the play?



40. After Kristin's comments Trudi starts to doubt her faith. What is Trudi afraid of?

41. In Act 2 we meet a new character. Who is it?

42. What happened to him?

43. What is Kristin doing? Why is this very meaningful?

44. Kristin is surprised that after trying to raise her sons in a non religious way, that Peter has become Christian. Why isn't Simon surprised? What is his explanation? You can find answers in the text below.

**SIMON:** I woke up one morning and realised that pretty much everything we are and everything we do is a response against you. So, no, I'm not bewildered in the least.

45. Why, according to Kristin, are Peter and Simon not mentioned in the book?

46. Simon tells his mother the thing that he remembers most about her is her absence. What does he mean?

47. What significant event happened in Florence?

48. Read the text below, what does Hugh mean by his comment? Do you agree?

**CLAIRE** So it's a gift.

**A short pause before she continues.**

Don't get me wrong, I do like Jesus.

**TRUDI** Like him?

**HUGH** How do you mean you *like* him?

**CLAIRE** I really do.

**HUGH** He's not a brand of toothpaste, my darling.

49. Kristin finds a similar mask in her book of Tribal masks and reads the following excerpt. Why does this make her like the mask now?

**KRISTIN (reading from the book) )** *Mask from the Sande society, a woman's association found in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea that champions women's social and political interests and promotes their solidarity vis a vis the Poro, a complimentary institution for men. The broad forehead and long face, commonly used in masks from this region, are associated with the wisdom which is necessary to accept the responsibility that accompanies the privileged position of power and influence. The wearers of this mask would connect to the spirit of the community in which they lived and experience the insight that the survival and wellbeing of the individual is inexorably interdependent with the survival and wellbeing of that very community.*

50. How does the play end? What is the last "line"? Did you find this to be a good ending?

#### **MULTIPLE CHOICE ANSWERS**

1.a, 2.b, 3.c, 4.c, 5.c, 6.a, 7.c, 8.a, 9.a, 10.b, 11.a, 12.a, 13.b, 14.a, 15.b, 16.b

#### **WHICH WORD ANSWERS**

1. Edifice
2. Contingency
3. Inedible
4. Stifled
5. Transgressed
6. Array
7. Facetious
8. Putrid
9. Vacuous
10. Commie

#### **COMPREHENSION ANSWERS**

1. They are early, they mention that they are early. Because there wasn't any traffic. Kristin is also not dressed yet and is wearing a dressing gown.
2. Kristin says she does, but she might not.
3. Trudi is vegetarian.
4. Chicken and vegetables
5. Chinese takeaways
6. A tribal mask from Liberia

7. She wants to know why it was made, what its significance is.
8. She says it definitely is not a decorative object, meaning that it is not meant to be an attractive ornament.
9. The women consult a book of masks and find out that it is made by a group that benefits women in Africa.
10. She says "powder my nose".
11. She says that she wishes he had another job, and then (not now) she can be proud of him. She uses very negative language as well, saying that he is raping the Third World.
12. Simon is currently unemployed and is allegedly writing a novel.
13. He has had three jobs in three months.
14. The picture is of Karl Marx.
15. It was hanging above the stairs but is now in the downstairs loo.
16. Student's own opinion, could be actions or language used.
17. Trudi is studying to become a physiotherapist.
18. They met at a prayer meeting.
19. Kristen seems to disapprove, she is very surprised.
20. Kristen gives very short answers.
21. The first black American president, Barack Obama.
22. She calls him "A big illusion in the sky".
23. She felt that he could inspire the common man, that he painted with feeling and inspired ordinary people.
24. Claire is Simon's girlfriend and she has received an extension of her acting contract (for a soap opera).
25. Simon is too depressed to attend / He is angry at his mother / He has just finished reading her book and is too hurt to attend.
26. Claire has bought a skin care product suitable for older women (Student's opinion)

27. He has given Kristen a framed photo of themselves taken at a demonstration when they were young.
28. It was the demonstration against the Vietnam war.
29. She feels Claire is being flippant or disrespectful to a period that Claire didn't live through.
30. They mean that there is a fundamental problem with the building, the foundations, this particularly refers to the relationship he has (or doesn't have) with his mother.
31. Devil's advocate means to justify an opinion that you don't necessarily believe in. It is ironic because Trudi does have her own beliefs, particularly those relating to her loyalty to God.
32. Two thousand pounds.
33. It gets red wine spilt on it.
34. Hugh is referring to miners, who have to work very hard under terrible conditions, he doesn't feel that Claire's job is as serious as she thinks it is.
35. They look the same, and they are the same model. It is important because Kristen answers Claire's phone and hears something that she is not supposed to.
36. She says Claire performs in Ibsen's A Doll's House. This play is possibly mentioned because it is about a woman who tries to be independent but is very much confined by those around her.
37. They think it is a bit strange/weird/unusual etc.
38. According to Claire an artist is trying to inspire people and instigate change. Claire is just an entertainer.
39. It is used when referring to personal secrets, particularly negative or embarrassing ones. It is used when Peter asks Kristen why she didn't mention her children in her memoirs.
40. Trudi is afraid that she has chosen to be Christian because it makes life "simpler".
41. Simon
42. He has fallen and cut his hand.
43. She is taking pieces of glass out of his wound very carefully. It is meaningful because it shows her caring, motherly side.

44. Simon explains that because she raised them to be non-religious, Peter is rebelling by being religious.
45. Kristen says that it was purely about her work.
46. He means that she was away a lot, and that that is the most notable characteristic about her.
47. Kristen's ex husband took the children away from her.
48. He is telling Claire that she should treat the topic with more respect. (student's opinion)
49. Kristen likes that the mask has meaning. It is made by a society that supports women, and the traditional use of the mask is for the wearer to gain insight.
50. The play ends with Trudi telling Kristen she should forgive herself. Kristen when alone, let's out a loud scream. (Students Opinion)

**ACTIVITY: SELECT A CHARACTER AND MAKE A LIST OF ADJECTIVES THAT DESCRIBE THAT CHARACTER.** Here are some examples below, as well as pictures of the actors (to describe physical characteristics).

1. Independent
2. Feminist
3. Kind
4. Curious
5. Christian
6. Atheist
7. Divorced
8. Actress
9. Student
10. Homosexual
11. Depressed
12. Successful
13. American
14. British
15. Wealthy
16. Unemployed
17. Banker
18. Discombobulated
19. Vegetarian
20. Engaged



## WHO SAID IT?

1. I have been quite nervous about meeting you. But you're a lot nicer in real life. Nicer than your cardboard version.
2. I keep hoping you're going to pack it all in and grow your own vegetables.
3. Please don't moralise
4. She's a bloody nightmare
5. I've never met a communist before
6. Forgiveness is so liberating I'll bear that in mind.
7. We were not worshipping some big illusion in the sky
8. It's more of a serialised drama that happens to follow the trajectories of various people's lives.
9. We were young and fucking gorgeous
10. I couldn't quite get my head round it. I mean, what was she thinking? I mean, it's hurtful.
11. She is to diplomacy what I am to heterosexuality. It's just not her thing.
12. I feel ever so slightly that I'm being interrogated.
13. Don't hold back, darling.
14. Why can't you just respect the fact that people don't always see things the way you do?
15. Let's talk about your book, Kristin.
16. I always felt I was competing for your attention.
17. I've heard so much about you.
18. I need to powder my nose.
19. I woke up one morning and realised that pretty much everything we are and everything we do is a response against you
20. I'm his girlfriend not his babysitter.

## WHO SAID IT ANSWERS

1. TRUDI
2. KRISTINI
3. PETER
4. PETER
5. TRUDI
6. KRISTEN
7. KRISTEN
8. CLAIRE
9. HUGH
10. CLAIRE
11. HUGH
12. CLAIRE
13. HUGH
14. PETER
15. PETER
16. SIMON
17. TRUDI
18. TRUDI
19. SIMON
20. CLAIRE



S	B	M	U	F	B	Q	F	I	C	T	R	U	D	I
K	R	Y	A	N	G	E	Y	O	W	H	C	J	U	W
A	L	A	W	R	M	C	Q	D	R	G	O	N	S	C
H	D	Y	I	I	X	L	L	H	P	W	U	W	T	R
V	S	J	N	B	T	D	H	I	D	P	R	O	T	H
C	C	I	D	A	E	V	R	E	O	K	T	S	B	K
O	S	A	P	O	L	O	G	I	A	Y	A	D	F	G
M	U	O	M	H	U	B	L	B	C	K	U	F	U	G
U	J	Q	X	P	C	R	C	U	K	B	L	L	I	H
T	Q	L	I	U	B	K	W	H	M	O	D	O	H	A
R	Y	Q	P	B	O	E	R	Y	A	Z	T	R	W	H
K	Y	Z	H	S	D	Y	L	S	F	T	C	E	J	A
K	F	Z	K	W	I	N	N	L	O	C	W	N	U	A
E	M	I	L	L	E	N	I	A	L	S	K	C	B	O
A	O	Y	W	N	W	U	L	O	V	D	W	E	S	P

1. Title of the play
2. Founder of modern communism, Karl...
3. Generation born between 1980 and 1994
4. The ... Institute of Art, University in London
5. Short for the Workers Revolutionary Party
6. Last name of the author
7. City in Italy where Kristen lived
8. Peter's Fiancé
9. Painter and Architect during the Italian Renaissance
10. Equal rights movement

S	B	M	U	F	B	Q	F	I	C	T	R	U	D	I
K	R	Y	A	N	G	E	Y	O	W	H	C	J	U	W
A	L	A	W	R	M	C	Q	D	R	G	O	N	S	C
H	D	Y	I	I	X	L	L	H	P	W	U	W	T	R
V	S	J	N	B	T	D	H	I	D	P	R	O	T	H
C	C	I	D	A	E	V	R	E	O	K	T	S	B	K
O	S	A	P	O	L	O	G	I	A	Y	A	D	F	G
M	U	O	M	H	U	B	L	B	C	K	U	F	U	G
U	J	Q	X	P	C	R	C	U	K	B	L	L	I	H
T	Q	L	I	U	B	K	W	H	M	O	D	O	H	A
R	Y	Q	P	B	O	E	R	Y	A	Z	T	R	W	H
K	Y	Z	H	S	D	Y	L	S	F	T	C	E	J	A
K	F	Z	K	W	I	N	N	L	O	C	W	N	U	A
E	M	I	L	L	E	N	I	A	L	S	K	C	B	O
A	O	Y	W	N	W	U	L	O	V	D	W	E	S	P

1. Title of the play (Apologia)
2. Founder of modern communism, Karl... (Marx)
3. Generation born between 1980 and 1994 (Millenials)
4. The ... Insitute of Art, University in London (Courtauld)
5. Short for the Workers Revolutionary Party (WRP)
6. Last name of the author (Campbell)
7. City in Italy where Kristen lived (Florence)
8. Peter's Fiancé (Trudi)
9. Painter and Architect during the Italian Rennaisance (Giotto)
10. Equal rights movement(Feminism)