

Play Reading Summary Form (*Guide*)

Title: (*Use Italics whenever you use the title of a work*)

Author: (Authors name)

Date: (Date of composition, copyright or publication)

Period/Style/Genre: (Make your best guess here... Comedy? Tragedy? Realism?)

Number of Characters: (*Characters*, as opposed to the number of *actors* required)

Setting: (Describe the location of each scene, but no need to repeat locations used more than once.)

Character Name

(Character Name)

(For every character)

Age

(Best guess)

(Best guess)

GenderOther

(M, F, or NA)

(M, F, or NA)

(Special qualities; dialects, disabilities, etc. Optional)

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Summary

(Summarize the main story. *Stick to the basic story line here*; don't worry about themes or subtextual ideas... just the simple "who does what to whom with what results".)

Special Notes

(This is for any important and/or unique aspects of the play... special effects, interesting historical connections, that kind of thing)

Personal Notes and Reactions

(This is where you discuss your personal reactions to the play. If there are important ideas or themes that stand out for you, this is the place to discuss them.)

Play Reading Summary Form (*Completed Example*)

Title: *Mavis*

Author: Sherilyn L. Hausey

Date: 1993

Period/Style/Genre: Post modern social “realism”: Parental abuse.

Number of Characters: 7: 5f, 2m, plus off stage voices.

Setting: 3 settings; 1) inside a beauty parlor, 2) a country road, 3)the parking lot outside a psychiatric institution.

<u>Character Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Gender</u>	<u>Other</u>
Mavis Henderson	Late 30s	F	Texan, working class
Mama Jo Henderson	80s	F	A ghost, Texan, working class..
Betsy Henderson	Mid 30s	F	Texan, working class.
Marilyn Gibson	20's	F	Texan, working class
Jack Malone	Late 40s	M	Texan, working class
Man	N/A	M	Texan, working class. Walk on.

Summary

Mama Jo has died leaving Mavis in charge of her run down beauty shop, which along with Mavis is mysteriously falling apart. When old love interest Jack goes to bring sister Betsy home from the loony bin to have a talk with Mavis, we find out that recently dead mama was a viciously abusive woman with a psychotic aversion to her daughters sexuality. Not only that, but she has risen from the grave to continue her abuse of Mavis.

Special Notes

Need some pretty special work with a mannequin representing the young Mama Jo... needs to be dismembered and destroyed every performance. Exterior scenes simple... though one is inside a moving car.

Personal Notes and Reactions

Tries to be funny and gory at the same time, all the while taking itself way to seriously as a “message” play about the effects of child abuse. Attempt at “Southern” characters comes off as offensive characatures. Beth Henley without the scope, subtlety or sensitivity. Just doesn’t ring true, rendering the violence somehow gratuitous. Visual imagery stronger than the writing. Ending unresolved, but clumsily so.

Play Reading Summary Form (Template)

Title:

Author:

Date:

Period/Style/Genre:

Number of Characters:

Setting:

Character Name

Age

Gender

Other

Summary

Special Notes

Personal Notes and Reactions

Professor Stroot's Standard Undergraduate Dramatic Lit. Reading list (In Alphabetical/Title order)

- Adding Machine* (Rice)
The Alchemist (B. Johnson)
American Buffalo (Mamet)
Angels in America (Kushner)
Antigone (Sophocles)
Arms and the Man (Shaw)
Awake and Sing (Odets)
Baby with the Bathwater (Durang)
The Bacchae (Euripides)
The Balconey (Genet)
The Bald Soprano (Ionesco)
A Balm in Gilead (Lanford Wilson)
Baltimore Waltz (Paula Vogel)
Beirut (Alan Bowne)
The Birthday Party (Pinter)
The Brig (Brown)
Cloud 9 (Churchill)
The Cherry Orchard (Chekov)
Cymbeline (Shakespeare)
Death and the Kings Horseman (Soyinka)
Death of a Salesman (A. Miller)
Death and the Maiden (Dorfman)
A Dream Play (Strindberg)
Dr. Faustus (Marlowe)
The Dutchman (Baraka)
Endgame (Beckett)
Equus (Shaffer)
Everyman (Anonymous)
Faust (Goethe)
Flea in her Ear (Feydeau)
Fool for Love (Shepard)
For Colored Girls..... (Shange)
The Glass Menagerie (Williams)
Ghosts (Ibsen)
Hamlet (Shakespeare)
The Hostage (Behan)
The Importance of Being Earnest (Wilde)
The Inspector General (Gogol)
The King Stag (Gozzi)
Little Foxes (Hellman)
Long Days Journey Into Night (O'Neill)
Look Back in Anger (Osborne)
The Lower Depths (Gorki)
Lysistrada (Aristophanes)
Ma Rainey's Black Bottom (August Wilson)
Macbeth (Shakespeare)
The Maids (Genet)
Major Barbara (Shaw)
Marat/Sade (Weis)
Master Harold... and the Boys (Fugard)
Love's Labors Lost (Shakespeare)
Miss Julie (Strindberg)
Mother Courage (Brecht)
No Exit (Sartre)
Oedipus Rex (Sophocles)
Oedipus at Colonus (Sophocles)
Our Town (Wilder)
Pantagleize (Ghelderode)
Peer Gynt (Ibsen)
Phedre (Racine)
Prometheus Bound (Aeschylus)
Purgatory (Yeats)
A Raisin in the Sun (Hansberry)
Riders to the Sea (Synge)
Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead (Stoppard)
School for Scandal (Sheriden)
A Soldiers Story (Fuller)
The Seagull (Chekov)
Servant of Two Masters (Goldoni)
Six Characters in Search of... (Pirandello)
Spring Awakening (Wedekind)
St. Joan (Shaw)
Streamers (Rabe)
Streetcar Named Desire (T. Williams)
Tartuffe (Moliere)
A Taste of Honey (Delaney)
Threepenny Opera (Brecht)
Top Girls (Churchill)
Top Dog/Underdog (S. Lori-Parks)
True West (Shepard)
Ubu Roi (Jarry)
Viet Rock (Terry)
The Visit (Deurrenmatt)
Waiting for Godot (Beckett)
The Weavers (Hauptmann)
Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolfe (Albee)
Woyzeck (Buchner)
Zoo Story (Albee)