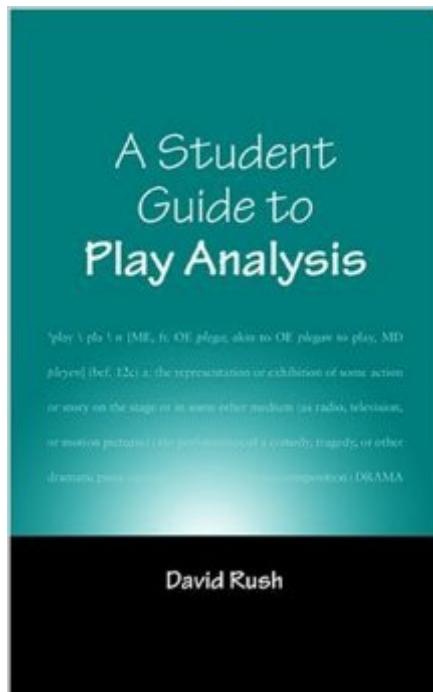


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# A Student Guide To Play Analysis



## Synopsis

With the skills of a playwright, the vision of a producer, and the wisdom of an experienced teacher, David Rush offers a fresh and innovative guide to interpreting drama in *A Student Guide to Play Analysis*, the first undergraduate teaching tool to address postmodern drama in addition to classic and modern. Covering a wide gamut of texts and genres, this far-reaching and user-friendly volume is easily paired with most anthologies of plays and is accessible even to those without a literary background. Contending that there are no right or wrong answers in play analysis, Rush emphasizes the importance of students developing insights of their own. The process is twofold: understand the critical terms that are used to define various parts and then apply these to a particular play. Rush clarifies the concepts of plot, character, and language, advancing Aristotle's concept of the Four Causes as a method for approaching a play through various critical windows. He describes the essential difference between a story and a play, outlines four ways of looking at plays, and then takes up the typical structural devices of a well-made play, four primary genres and their hybrids, and numerous styles, from expressionism to postmodernism. For each subject, he defines critical norms and analyzes plays common to the canon. *A Student Guide to Play Analysis* draws on thoughtful examinations of such dramas as *The Cherry Orchard*, *The Good Woman of Setzuan*, *Fences*, *The Little Foxes*, *A Doll House*, *The Glass Menagerie*, and *The Emperor Jones*. Each chapter ends with a list of questions that will guide students in further study.

## Book Information

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Southern Illinois University Press; 1st edition (June 2, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0809326094

ISBN-13: 978-0809326099

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #504,566 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #121 in Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Play & Scriptwriting #155 in Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Theater > Direction & Production #163 in Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Theater > Playwriting

## Customer Reviews

Easy to read, but Rush uses many examples from plays my classmates and I hadn't read yet. This was used for an intro level college play literature class, and it was difficult to understand what he was trying to convey because the examples (A Doll's House, There Glass Menagerie, Fences, The Cherry Orchard) are used as an explanation of concepts instead of an additional tool to get the point across. It doesn't make sense to use such detailed and sometimes obscure examples in an intro book. It would make more sense to use play examples that most students read in high school like Romeo and Juliet, or A Midsummer Night's Dream. However, if you already have read many plays, this should not be an issue.

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