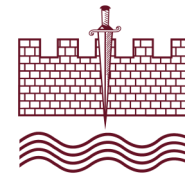


Half term 1

A View from The Bridge

Key Stage 3: Year 9

Knowledge Organiser



WHAT IS A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE?

Told in two acts, Arthur Miller's play *A View from the Bridge* (1955) tells the story of Eddie Carbone, an Italian American Longshoreman whose household is upended by the arrival of his wife's cousins from Italy. Their arrival sets in motion a chain of events that leads, unexpectedly, to Eddie's dramatic undoing.

Italy in the 1950s was a very poor country. The country had suffered huge losses in WW2 and the economy was extremely slow to grow. With no jobs and very few prospects, many opted to illegally immigrate to America. Many immigrants came to America with ideas of fulfilling their own American Dream, which declares that freedoms, prosperity, success, and social mobility, can all be achieved through hard work.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Arthur Miller (1915-2005) was an American playwright and essayist. Amongst his most popular plays are *Death of a Salesman*, (1949) *The Crucible* (1953) and *A View from the Bridge* (1955). Miller worked in the Brooklyn shipyards for two years in young adulthood, where he befriended the Italian Americans he worked with. There, he heard stories of men coming over to work and being betrayed, which inspired this play!

EXAM SKILLS:

- AO1: Read, understand and respond to texts using textual references. Identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas.
- AO2: Use PEEL to analyse how the writers use language and structure techniques to achieve effects and influence readers
- AO3: Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written
- AO5: Respond creatively, effectively and imaginatively. Adapt tone, style and register for different forms, purposes and audiences.

"I want my respect!" - Eddie Carbone

SUCCESS CRITERIA:

1. Identify techniques and analyse language, form and structure.
2. Understand and comment on the writer's intentions.
3. Understand and evaluate the reader's response.
4. Understand and evaluate the effects and significance of context (audience, social, historical, cultural).
6. Be able to explore a text independently and interpret and evaluate the ideas.
7. Use precise evidence to support ideas.
8. Analyse multiple meanings/interpretations where possible.
9. Use material to create own creative responses

KEY CHARACTERS

Eddie Carbone— Eddie is a longshoreman, and the head of the Carbone household.

Beatrice Carbone—Eddie's wife and Catherine's aunt.

Catherine—Beatrice's niece. Just finishing college and wants to go to work—young

Marco—Beatrice's older cousin from Italy

Rodolfo— Rodolpho is Beatrice's young, blond cousin from Italy and Marco's brother.

Alfieri—a lawyer that narrates the play and offers Eddie advice

KEY TERMS / THEMES

The American Dream—the ideal of finding wealth in America

Immigration—going to live in a foreign country

Opportunity—a chance for something better

Expectation— a strong belief something will happen

Community- a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common

Masculinity—qualities or attributes regarded as characteristic of men or boys.

Ambition—a strong desire to do or achieve something.

Betrayal—an act that breaks trust or confidence

Respect/honour—a feeling of deep admiration for someone or something