

Level 3 NCEA DRAMA
91512 (3.1) Resource B
Statement of Intention

Student 4: High Achieved
NZQA Intended for teacher use only

Role: Iris
Play: Wednesday to Come
Playwright: Renee

- 1. Give one key phrase that sums up what you want the audience to understand from your performance.**

That Iris did love Ben and now she just wants closure. She may not always make her love for him clear but she did and she will miss him like she says at the end of the monologue – ‘I’m going to miss you...in spite of it all... I’ll miss you.’ This illustrates how she wants closure and how she did love Ben.

- 2. What is the action line of your scene? How does this fit into the larger play?**

“But not you, you couldn’t take it” when Iris says this, it is when she is truly saying how she feels without holding back. She feels that Ben has given up by committing suicide. This fits into the larger play because she is now left to bring up the two kids in the difficult times of the depression. Iris wants closure but she is still angry at Ben for giving up. She never lets her emotions out she always bottles them up. To get closure she needs to talk about it and does this when she talks to Ben in his coffin. She truly tells him how she feels and gets everything off her chest after this she gains closure.

- 3. Describe your role, including physical and emotional characteristics, action, attitudes and behaviours, and how your role relates to others.**

When performing the role of Iris because she is seeing her husband for the first time her emotions are very strong. I use body awareness. She is reluctant to go and see Ben because it will make it all a reality but at the same time she wants to see him. When using body awareness I show nervousness by fiddling with my hands and when I go to sit down I check that I am presentable as if Ben can see me. Iris is described as a hard, stubborn woman so although she is nervous to see Ben I make sure I don’t look vulnerable and weak. I use facial expression when I see him for the first time which illustrates the reality of him being dead. Iris is described as having an attitude. She is confronting Ben volume rises and tone comes through revealing the emotions she is experiencing. When I move over confronting him, I move towards him with direction and a force of energy. I make the proximity so I am close to him so it is obvious that I am confronting him. I also gesture to him by pointing this also helps with showing the confrontation as when Iris was young she was forced to grow up fast. This is why she portrays herself as a tough, stubborn woman with a wall around her to prevent people from seeing/hearing how she really feels. This creates her attitudes and behaviour of being touch and a no nonsense type of person because she feels if you are weak that is how you get hurt. She feels that from Ben committing suicide Cliff and Jeannie will have to grow up fast like she did.

4. What time and place is your play set? How does the setting relate to key social/historical ideas of the time, the theatre form/period, of key ideas still relevant today?

The time of the play is the 1930's. The idea of the time was that everybody was suffering through a huge recession called "The Great Depression". At this time people struggled to provide food and warmth for their families. The setting relates to the play and the time because the whole play is based around the character Ben who has committed suicide. Ben was forced to work in a relief camp. The pressure got to be too much so he ended his life. During this time in the 1930's it was expected that a husband should support his wife and children and if you were unable to do this it was very shameful. Because Ben was struggling so much during the time of the depression he committed suicide. He had been working extremely hard but was unable to cope with the emotional stress and pressure and suffered from depression.

5. Describe the situation in the scene you present including key relationships and problems and how these relate to a key theme of the play as a whole.

The situation of my character, Iris is seeing her husband in the coffin for the first time after he has committed suicide. The main theme in the play is the Great Depression. She is in her home in a small room with just her and the coffin. During the monologue Iris really opens up and we start to understand the relationship her and Ben shared. The monologue has a variety of emotions in it as she reflects on both the negative and positive aspects of their relationship. To show these contrasts in their relationship of him having played around, I use aspects of voice, especially pause, volume and tone to reflect her emotions. Key relationships Iris has and talks about in the monologue are with her late husband Ben and their two children, Cliff and Jeannie. In the monologue you understand through subtext she is worried about what life will be like without Ben and being a single parent. She also refers to how Ben 'taught Cliff well' and admits he was a good father and this is why she is so angry about the death and how he gave up on life by committing suicide. This relationship with Ben is almost a 'love – hate' relationship. Iris is finally opening up and expressing her feelings for the first time because through the play strength and hardness has been portrayed by Iris.