

Student 3: Low Merit

NZQA Intended for teacher use only

**Select performance skills associated with a theatre form or period.****'Theatre of the Absurd'**

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I show my lower status as Estragon (like a teenaged son) slouched down whilst Vladimir has a more comfortable seat on the bean bag, Although I am lower status, he needs me as much as I need him, but since this is Absurd theatre we won't ever actually improve our relationship. Human beings are really just lone figures in the universe.

I move around in a restless way without actually achieving anything. My movements don't seem to have a proper motivation since nothing I do builds on any past action. I don't remember what has gone before and I am almost always confused.

The pointless act of lighting candles symbolises those times in life when something momentarily positive happens but someone will always snuff it out. Even though Didi was always trying to light them, Gogo would always make sure they did not stay lit. The symbolism is that life is one giant struggle. As soon as some little achievement comes along, there'll be an anti-climax.

The potted plant represents the pointlessness of our miserable lives as we are always going to wake up from dreams. It is not even a real tree but something cheap and nasty that looks real but is dry and artificial. Symbolic use of props is a feature of the theatre we are showing.

Our bouncing ball and the juggling show the ritual of tiny actions which can help us feel in control. We are too scared to think of the real situation we are in so we concentrate on little manageable actions and just do them over and over.

Our conversations with each other go nowhere as we have no solutions to our situation. We cannot even remember recent happenings. We show conversational monologues where each person is just locked in their own world.

We take up the same positions at the end as we started with. This emphasises the Absurdist idea that there is no escape through action. You might as well be asleep. The scene has not got us anywhere and when we wake up we'll still be waiting for something to come along (Godot) and save us.