**Waiting for Godot**

**by Samuel Beckett**

Waiting for Godot qualifies as one of Samuel Beckett's most famous works. Originally written in French in 1948, Beckett personally translated the play into English. The world premiere was held on January 5, 1953, in the Left Bank Theater of Babylon in Paris. The play's reputation spread slowly through word of mouth and it soon became quite famous. Other productions around the world rapidly followed. Waiting for Godot incorporates many of the themes and ideas that Beckett had previously discussed in his other writings. The use of the play format allowed Beckett to dramatize his ideas more forcefully than before, and is one of the reasons that the play is so intense. Beckett often focused on the idea of "the suffering of being." Most of the play deals with the fact that Estragon and Vladimir are waiting for something to alleviate their boredom. Godot can be understood as one of the many things in life that people wait for.

**Waiting for Godot Character List**

**Estragon**

Estragon is one of the two protagonists. He is a bum and sleeps in a ditch where he is beaten each night. He has no memory beyond what is immediately said to him, and relies on Vladimir to remember for him. Estragon is impatient and constantly wants to leave Vladimir, but is restrained from leaving by the fact that he needs Vladimir. It is Estragon's idea for the bums to pass their time by hanging themselves. Estragon has been compared to a body without an intellect, which therefore needs Vladimir to provide the intellect.

**Vladimir**

Vladimir is one of the two protagonists. He is a bum like Estragon, but retains a memory of most events. However, he is often unsure whether his memory is playing tricks on him. Vladimir is friends with Estragon because Estragon provides him with the chance to remember past events. Vladimir is the one who makes Estragon wait with him for Mr. Godot's imminent arrival throughout the play. Vladimir has been compared to the intellect which provides for the body, represented by Estragon.

**Lucky**

Lucky is the slave of Pozzo. He is tied to Pozzo via a rope around his neck and he carries Pozzo's bags. Lucky is only allowed to speak twice during the entire play, but his long monologue is filled with incomplete ideas. He is silenced only by the other characters who fight with him to take of his hat. Lucky appears as a mute in the second act.

**Pozzo**

Pozzo is the master who rules over Lucky. He stops and talks to the two bums in order to have some company. In the second act Pozzo is blind and requires their help. He, like Estragon, cannot remember people he has met. His transformation between the acts may represent the passage of time.

**a boy**

The boy is a servant of Mr. Godot. He plays an identical role in both acts by coming to inform Vladimir and Estragon the Mr. Godot will not be able to make it that night, but will surely come the next day. The boy never remembers having met Vladimir and Estragon before. He has a brother who is mentioned but who never appears.

***MCQs on Waiting for Godot***

**1. Who wrote *Waiting for Godot*?**

A) Jean-Paul Sartre  
B) Samuel Beckett  
C) Albert Camus  
D) Harold Pinter

**Answer:** B) Samuel Beckett

**2. In what year was *Waiting for Godot* originally written?**

A) 1945  
B) 1948  
C) 1953  
D) 1960

**Answer:** B) 1948

**3. Where was the world premiere of *Waiting for Godot* held?**

A) London  
B) New York  
C) Paris  
D) Dublin

**Answer:** C) Paris

**4. What is the primary theme of *Waiting for Godot*?**

A) The complexity of human relationships  
B) The absurdity of life and waiting  
C) The impact of war on society  
D) The pursuit of knowledge

**Answer:** B) The absurdity of life and waiting

**5. Who are the two main protagonists in the play?**

A) Pozzo and Lucky  
B) Estragon and Vladimir  
C) Estragon and Pozzo  
D) Lucky and Vladimir

**Answer:** B) Estragon and Vladimir

**6. What is the relationship between Pozzo and Lucky?**

A) They are brothers  
B) Pozzo is Lucky’s master  
C) Lucky is Pozzo’s father  
D) They are old friends

**Answer:** B) Pozzo is Lucky’s master

**7. How is Estragon different from Vladimir?**

A) Estragon has a strong memory, while Vladimir forgets things  
B) Estragon is logical, while Vladimir is emotional  
C) Estragon has poor memory and relies on Vladimir to remember  
D) Estragon is the more dominant character in their relationship

**Answer:** C) Estragon has poor memory and relies on Vladimir to remember

**8. How does Lucky communicate in the play?**

A) Through a long monologue  
B) Through sign language  
C) Through songs  
D) Through written notes

**Answer:** A) Through a long monologue

**9. What change occurs to Pozzo in the second act?**

A) He becomes mute  
B) He goes blind  
C) He forgets how to speak  
D) He runs away

**Answer:** B) He goes blind

**10. What role does the boy play in the story?**

A) He is Pozzo’s son  
B) He is a messenger from Mr. Godot  
C) He is Vladimir’s brother  
D) He is a thief who follows the characters

**Answer:** B) He is a messenger from Mr. Godot

**11. What is the main action that Estragon and Vladimir engage in throughout the play?**

A) Traveling to different places  
B) Waiting for Mr. Godot  
C) Searching for food  
D) Arguing over politics

**Answer:** B) Waiting for Mr. Godot

**12. What does Estragon suggest they do to pass the time?**

A) Tell each other stories  
B) Sing and dance  
C) Hang themselves  
D) Play chess

**Answer:** C) Hang themselves

**13. What does Vladimir often do to check on Estragon?**

A) Feeds him food  
B) Looks at his feet  
C) Asks him riddles  
D) Tells him jokes

**Answer:** B) Looks at his feet

**14. How does Lucky lose his ability to speak in the second act?**

A) He is cursed by Pozzo  
B) His hat is removed  
C) He is struck by lightning  
D) He decides to take a vow of silence

**Answer:** B) His hat is removed

**15. What is unique about the play’s structure?**

A) It follows a traditional story arc  
B) It consists of two nearly identical acts  
C) It is written entirely in poetry  
D) It is performed without any dialogue

**Answer:** B) It consists of two nearly identical acts

**16. Why does the boy say that Mr. Godot will not come?**

A) He is too busy  
B) He does not exist  
C) He will come tomorrow  
D) He is already there

**Answer:** C) He will come tomorrow

**17. What is a common interpretation of Mr. Godot?**

A) A political leader  
B) A representation of hope and meaning  
C) A religious figure  
D) Both B and C

**Answer:** D) Both B and C

**18. What does Pozzo claim happened to him between the two acts?**

A) He lost his memory  
B) He became blind  
C) He found Mr. Godot  
D) He became rich

**Answer:** B) He became blind

**19. How do Vladimir and Estragon react when the boy tells them Godot is not coming?**

A) They decide to leave  
B) They attack the boy  
C) They continue waiting  
D) They cry and shout

**Answer:** C) They continue waiting

**20. What does the play symbolize about human existence?**

A) That life has a clear and predictable meaning  
B) That people often wait for something that may never come  
C) That fate is controlled by external forces  
D) That suffering is only temporary

**Answer:** B) That people often wait for something that may never come