

Describe the setting. What props does a performance require?

Who is the protagonist? The antagonist? Who or what drives most of the action?

How does this play resemble the other Synge plays we've read? In particular, how does it resemble the other two Wicklow plays, *In the Shadow of the Glen* and *The Well of the Saints*? Besides the obvious ones of separate plays, what significant differences do you see—especially in character development, theme, poetic language?

How does this play portray conflict between individual and community? How is that conflict resolved?

When the play opens, what does Sarah want? Michael? Mary? How does each character try to achieve that end? Who succeeds, and who fails, and why?

Why do the tinkers "meddle" with the priest? How does he express his hostility to them? Why and how do they humiliate him?

Where is the gallon can? What becomes of the wedding ring? Of the gold?

How do the tinkers differ from the Tramp of *In the Shadow of the Glen* and the blind beggars of *The Well of the Saints*? How does Sarah differ from Nora? Michael Byrne from Timmy the Smith?

Most audiences and most critics find this play the least satisfying among Synge's works. What do you think? Why?