

**Synge, *In the Shadow of the Glen*  
Wesley Advocates**

**21 February 2021**

Consider the setting: identify the time and place (see map for County Wicklow) and weather. From Synge's stage directions at the beginning, sketch a set so you can visualize where the doors are, the bed, the turf fire.

What does the Tramp ask Nora for? What does she give him—and why? How does the dialogue emphasize Nora's loneliness?

What has happened to Nora's husband? When? How does Nora describe Dan Burke? What riches has he left her?

Why must Nora leave the cottage? And what does the Tramp do in her absence? What is significant about the needle and thread?

What is important about Dan Burke's black stick? Why does he consider Nora a bad wife?

Who is Michael Dara? What do we learn about his relationship with Dan and Nora? Why do we keep hearing about Patch Darcy?

Why did Nora marry Dan Burke? Describe her life with him. Why does Michael Dara assume Nora will marry him? Why does she refuse?

How does Dan revivify? What does he look like? What does he demand of Nora? What is Michael Dara's attitude toward Nora now?

Nora says to Dan, "For it's bad you are living, and it's bad you'll be when you're dead." What does she mean? Do you agree?

What does the Tramp offer Nora? What does he know about her? Does this resolution suit what we know of both the Tramp and Nora? Why or why not?

Is this play a comedy or a tragedy? Why do you think so?