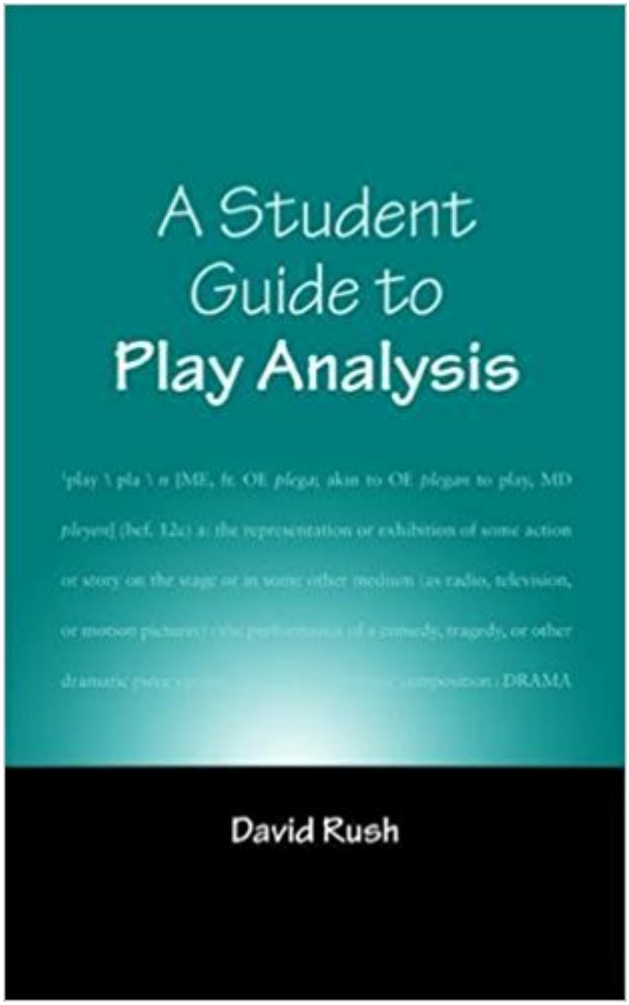
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A Student Guide To Play Analysis



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Synopsis

With the skills of a playwright, the vision of a producer, and the wisdom of an experienced teacher, David Rush offers a fresh and innovative guide to interpreting drama in A Student Guide to Play Analysis, the first undergraduate teaching tool to address postmodern drama in addition to classic and modern. Covering a wide gamut of texts and genres, this far-reaching and user-friendly volume is easily paired with most anthologies of plays and is accessible even to those without a literary background.Contending that there are no right or wrong answers in play analysis, Rush emphasizes the importance of students developing insights of their own. The process is twofold: understand the critical terms that are used to define various parts and then apply these to a particular play. Rush clarifies the concepts of plot, character, and language, advancing AristotleÃ¢â ¬â„¢s concept of the Four Causes as a method for approaching a play through various critical windows. He describes the essential difference between a story and a play, outlines four ways of looking at plays, and then takes up the typical structural devices of a well-made play, four primary genres and their hybrids, and numerous styles, from expressionism to postmodernism.For each subject, he defines critical norms and analyzes plays common to the canon. A Student Guide to Play Analysis draws on thoughtful examinations of such dramas as The Cherry Orchard, The Good Woman of Setzuan, Fences, The Little Foxes, A Doll House, The Glass Menagerie, and The Emperor Jones. Each chapter ends with a list of questions that will guide students in further study.

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Customer Reviews

"This is the most comprehensive text on script analysis, perfect for the entry-level undergraduate course in the field. Rush covers a tremendous amount of ground. His command of the whole dramatic bag is amazing."" This is the most comprehensive text on script analysis, perfect for the entry-level undergraduate course in the field. Rush covers a tremendous amount of ground. His command of the whole dramatic bag is amazing." -- Paul C. Castagno, author of" New Playwriting Strategies: A Language-Based Approach to Playwriting" "" "This is the most comprehensive text on script analysis, perfect for the entry-level undergraduate course in the field. Rush covers a tremendous amount of ground. His command of the whole dramatic bag is amazing."--Paul C. Castagno, author of" New Playwriting Strategies: A Language-Based Approach to Playwriting"""

David Rush is an associate professor of theatre at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, where he has taught play analysis for over ten years. Named 2002 Playwriting Teacher of the Year by the Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Rush is a Resident Writer Emeritus of the Chicago Dramatists and an ensemble member at the Stage Left Theater in Chicago. He has written over twenty plays and musicals, including the productions Cuttings (2003), Prairie Lights (2002), and Police Deaf Near Far (2000), Dapples & Grays (1994), and Leander Stillwell (1992).

Easy to read, but Rush uses many examples from plays my classmates and I hadn’t read yet. This was used for an intro level college play literature class, and it was difficult to understand what he was trying to convey because the examples (A Doll’s House, There Glass Menagerie, Fences, The Cherry Orchard) are used as an explanation of concepts instead of an additional tool to get the point across. It doesn’t make sense to use such detailed and sometimes obscure examples in an intro book. It would make more sense to use play examples that most students read in high school like Romeo and Juliet, or A Midsummer Night’s Dream. However, if you already have read many plays, this should not be an issue.

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