
Brighton Beach Memoirs Play Script

A Study Guide for Neil Simon's "Brighton Beach
Memoirs"

American Theatre

Good People

What I Did Last Summer

Night Must Fall

Conversations with Neil Simon

The Odd Couple

Plaza Suite

Come Blow Your Horn

Neil Simon's 45 Seconds from Broadway

Conversations with Neil Simon

The Vandal

Rewrites

Neil Simon's Musical Fools

Proof

Hollywood Arms

Love, Loss, and what I Wore

Fuddy Meers

From Door to Door

The Star-spangled Girl

Laughter on the 23rd Floor

Brighton Beach Memoirs

The Good Doctor

Brighton Beach Memoirs

The Sunshine Boys

Biloxi Blues

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Lost in Yonkers
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Zap
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A Study Guide
for Neil
Simon's
"Brighton
Beach
Memoirs"
Dramatists
Play Service
Inc
A
heartwarming,

bittersweet
comedy about
three
generations of
American
women. Mary
Goodman, a
woman of the
"greatest
generation" is
mourning the
loss of her
husband. Her
daughter,
Deborah, is
encouraging
her to end her

period of
mourning and
move on with
a new
independence.
In a series of
scenes
between Mary,
Deborah, and
Mary's
mother,
Bessie, Mary
reflects back
on her life as a
daughter, wife
and mother. A
trio of

actresses plays the three women over the course of sixty-five years. As Mary's life progresses from childhood to matrimony to motherhood, we see how each successive generation of women lives up to the expectations of the past and makes brave new choices about the future. At the end of the play, the three women stand as links in a chain made of faith, love, and

understanding .
American Theatre
 Simon and Schuster
 “High-school theater departments willing to experiment with something new might try this as an alternative to the same old reruns of *Grease* and *Romeo and Juliet*.”
 —Kirkus Reviews
 Newbery Medalist Paul Fleischman has considered the advice of performers and producers in this newly

refreshed and thoroughly updated edition of a high-school tour de force. When high school drama departments are not dusting off the old classics—over and over—they are constantly in search of new material. But what play could possibly suit the sound bite attention span of kids who flit from text messages to social networks throughout their day? Cue the lights for Zap, a nonstop farce

that juxtaposes seven different plays—performed simultaneously—with comic genius. An extensive author’s note provides information and insight on the plays and playwrights spoofed in Zap.

Good People
Samuel French, Inc.
Two poker buddies, one a hyper-neurotic, the other an incurable slob, suddenly find themselves bachelors again and decide to

share a New York City apartment. *What I Did Last Summer*
LA Theatre Works
Neil Simon’s inimitable play about the trials and tribulations that test family ties—winner of the 1991 Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

What happens to children in the absence of love? That is the question that lies at the heart of this funny and heartrending play by one of America’s most acclaimed and beloved

playwrights. Debuting at the Richard Rodgers Theatre in 1990, *Lost in Yonkers* went on to win four Tony Awards, including Best Play, as well as the Pulitzer Prize, and tells the moving drama about the cruelties and painful memories that scar a family. It is New York, 1942. After the death of their mother, two young brothers are sent to stay with their formidable grandmother for the longest ten months of their lives.

Grandmother Kurnitz is a one-woman German front—a refugee and a widow who has steeled her heart against the world. Her coldness and intolerance have crippled her own children: the boys' father has no self-esteem; their Aunt Gert has an embarrassing speech impediment; their Uncle Louie is a small-time gangster; and their Aunt Bella has the mentality of a child. But it is

Bella's hunger for affection and her refusal to be denied love that saves the boys—and that leads to an unforgettable, wrenching confrontation with her mother. Filled with laughter, tears, and insight, *Lost in Yonkers* is a heartwarming testament to Neil Simon's talent. *Night Must Fall* Samuel French, Incorporated "Barefoot in the Park, The Odd Couple, Plaza Suite, The Goodbye Girl, The Out-

of-Towners, The Sunshine Boys" -- Neil Simon's plays and movies have kept many millions of people laughing for almost four decades. Today he is recognized not only as the most successful American playwright of all time, but also as one of the greatest. More than the humor, however, it is the humanity of Neil Simon's vision that has made him America's most beloved playwright and earned

him such enduring success. Now, in "Rewrites," he has written a funny, deeply touching memoir, filled with details and anecdotes of the writing life and rich with the personal experiences that underlie his work. Since "Come Blow Your Horn" first opened on Broadway in 1960, few seasons have passed without the appearance of another of his laughter-filled plays, and indeed on

numerous occasions two or more of his works have been running simultaneously. But his success was something Neil Simon never took for granted, nor was the talent to create laughter something that he ever treated carelessly: it took too long for him to achieve the kind of acceptance -- both popular and critical -- that he craved, and the path he followed frequently was pitted with

hard decisions. All of Neil Simon's plays are to some extent a reflection of his life, sometimes autobiographical, other times based on the experiences of those close to him. What the reader of this warm, nostalgic memoir discovers, however, is that the plays, although grounded in Neil Simon's own experience, provide only a glimpse into the mind and soul of this very private

man. In "Rewrites," he tells of the painful discord he endured at home as a child, of his struggles to develop his talent as a writer, and of his insecurities when dealing with what proved to be his first great success -- falling in love. Supporting players in the anecdote-filled memoir include Sid Caesar, Jerry Lewis, Walter Matthau, Robert Redford, Gwen Verdon, Bob Fosse, Maureen

Stapleton, George C. Scott, Peter Sellers, and Mike Nichols. But always at center stage is his first love, his wife Joan, whose death in the early seventies devastated him, and whose love and inspiration illuminate this remarkable and revealing self-portrait. "Rewrites" is rich in laughter and emotion, and filled with the memories of a sometimes sweet, sometimes bittersweet life.

Conversations with Neil Simon
Penguin
This elegiac memory play delightfully recalls the last time the Hines family gathered at their retreat in the Poconos. The summer of 1953 brings romantic entanglements that coalesce one idyllic afternoon; Burt Hines, mid-50's and convalescing from a second heart attack, eagerly anticipates the arrival of the ex-wife he still loves. Daughter Josie

has just broken her engagement to a Harvard law student and pines for his buddy Ray, an aspiring writer with whom she once had a brief fling. Clemma, the black housekeeper at the center of the action casts a astute eye on the complications while facing with her own unresolved past.

The Odd Couple

Candlewick Press
Neil Simon's recollections of life in Brooklyn in

the 1930's came to the stage in this family drama with humorous interludes. The energetic 15-year-old Eugene is everywhere and sometimes not available when he's wanted. But he helps us become familiar with problems he and his relatives have to solve. There is fun and excitement but many doubts aches, as well. Plaza Suite
Dramatists Play Service

Inc
THE STORY:
Night, cold, a bus stop in Kingston, New York. A woman waits. A boy comes up.
Come Blow Your Horn
Algonquin Books
Al and Willie as "Lewis and Clark" were top-billed vaudevillians for over forty years. Now they aren't even speaking. When CBS requests them for a "History of Comedy" retrospective, a grudging reunion brings the two back together,

along with a flood of memories, miseries and laughs. -- publisher description. Neil Simon's 45 Seconds from Broadway Samuel French, Inc. The one-liners fly like rockets in THE NEW CENTURY, the rollicking bill of short plays by Paul Rudnick...Building on time-honored traditions within gay and Jewish humor, Mr. Rudnick turns stereotypes into bullet-deflecting armor and

jokes into an inexhaust Compelling drama...deliriously entertaining. -The New Yorker. Hilarious...raw and revealing. -- EdgeNewYork.com. Playwright Jason Chimonides' script abounds with witty remarks, dirty allusions, and random tangents where high art and popular culture collide **Conversations with Neil Simon** Concord Theatricals Neil Simon (1927–2018)

began as a writer for some of the leading comedians of the day—including Jackie Gleason, Red Buttons, Phil Silvers, and Jerry Lewis—and he wrote for fabled television programs alongside a group of writers that included Mel Brooks, Woody Allen, Larry Gelbart, Michael Stewart, and Sid Caesar. After television, Simon embarked on a playwriting

career. In the next four decades he saw twenty-eight of his plays and five musicals produced on Broadway. Thirteen of those plays and three of the musicals ran for more than five hundred performances. He was even more widely known for his screenplays—some twenty-five in all. Yet, despite this success, it was not until his *BB Trilogy*—*Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Biloxi Blues*, and *Broadway*

Bound—that critics and scholars began to take Simon seriously as a literary figure. This change in perspective culminated in 1991 when his play *Lost in Yonkers* won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. In the twenty-two interviews included in *Conversations with Neil Simon*, Simon talks candidly about what it was like to write commercially successful plays that were dismissed by critics and

scholars. He also speaks at length about the differences between writing for television, for the stage, and for film. He speaks openly and often revealingly about his relationships with, among many others, Mike Nichols, Walter Matthau, Sid Caesar, and Jack Lemmon. Above all, these interviews reveal Neil Simon as a writer who thought long and intelligently about creating

for stage, film, and television, and about dealing with serious subjects in a comic mode. In so doing, *Conversations with Neil Simon* compels us to recognize Neil Simon's genius. [The Vandal](#) Dramatists Play Service Inc A comedy of present-day New York life. [Rewrites](#) Lulu.com "Sons of the Prophet" was produced by the Huntington Theatre Company (Peter DuBois,

artistic director; Michael Maso, managing director) in Boston, Massachusetts, on April 13, 2011." [Neil Simon's Musical Fools](#) Dramatists Play Service Inc A collection of vignettes including an old woman who storms a bank and upbraids the manager for his gout and lack of money, a father who takes his son to a house for sex only to relent at the last moment, a grafted seducer who

realizes it is the married woman who is in command, the tale of a man who offers to drown himself for three rubles, etc. **Proof** Dramatists Play Service Inc Neil Simon's plays are to some extent a reflection of his life, sometimes autobiographical, other times based on the experiences of those close to him. What the reader of this warm, nostalgic memoir discovers,

however, is that the plays, although grounded in Neil Simon's own experience, provide only a glimpse into the mind and soul of this very private man. In *Rewrites*, he tells of the painful discord he endured at home as a child, of his struggles to develop his talent as a writer, and of his insecurities when dealing with what proved to be his first great success -- falling in love. Supporting

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self-portrait. *Rewrites* is rich in laughter and emotion, and filled with the memories of a sometimes sweet, sometimes bittersweet life.

Hollywood Arms

Dramatists Play Service Inc
 THE STORY: The setting is a well-to-do vacation colony on the shores of Lake Erie, the time 1945, during the final stages of World War II. Charlie, an incipiently rebellious fourteen-year-

old, is summering with his mother and sister (his father is *Love, Loss, and what I Wore* Simon and Schuster

THE STORY: Welcome to Southie, a Boston neighborhood where a night on the town means a few rounds of bingo, where this month's paycheck covers last month's bills, and where Margie Walsh has just been let go from yet another job. Facing eviction and *Fuddy Meers*

DigiCat
Length: 2 acts.

From Door to Door
Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

"Night Must Fall" is a dramatic psychological thriller by Emlyn Williams. The plot revolves around a young lady living with her unmarried rich aunt. The boring country life gets fussier when Olivia, the protagonist, and her aunt get to know that one of their servants is pregnant. The baby's

father is a mysterious and charming young man who settles in their house as an aid to Olivia's aunt. He manages to enchant everyone in the place, except for Olivia, to whom he seems suspicious, and not without reason.

The Star-spangled Girl
Dramatists Play Service Inc
Neil Simon (1927-2018) began as a writer for some of the leading comedians of

the day—including Jackie Gleason, Red Buttons, Phil Silvers, and Jerry Lewis—and he wrote for fabled television programs alongside a group of writers that included Mel Brooks, Woody Allen, Larry Gelbart, Michael Stewart, and Sid Caesar. After television, Simon embarked on a playwriting career. In the next four decades he saw twenty-eight of his

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