

Trifles By Susan Glaspell

Susan Glaspell's classic one-act play exploring domestic abuse, murder, gender equality, and moral justice. When a man is found dead by mysterious hanging, a town searches for clues that might incriminate or exonerate his wife. A pioneering feminist playwright and referred to as "American drama's best-kept secret," Susan Glaspell was a top selling writer in her own time, the founder of the first modern American theatre company, and a leader in Depression era theatrical productions. She is also credited with having discovered playwright Eugene O'Neill.

In *To the Actor* Michael Chekhov has recorded brilliantly the results of his many years of experimenting, testing and verifying in the professional theater and schools of the theater. He brings to actors far greater insight into themselves and the characters they are to portray, which enables them to approach any role with new ease and skill. "To the Actor is by far the best book that I have read on the subject of acting. Actors, directors, writers and critics will be grateful for it. It should prove enlightening to theatergoers who wish to deepen their appreciation for fine acting and thus help to invigorate the theatrical art."—Gregory Peck "I think without a doubt every creative person in the theater will want to have it as a constant reference book, outside of its being, in my opinion, absorbing and entertaining reading."—Yul Brynner (from the Preface) "One of the most remarkable and practical books on the technique of acting I have ever read....Enthusiastically recommended to all theatre collections of whatever size."—Library Journal

A Study Guide for Susan Glaspell's "Trifles," excerpted from Gale's acclaimed *Drama For Students*. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust *Drama For Students* for all of your research needs.

First performed in 1916, "Trifles", by American playwright, actress, and novelist Susan Glaspell, is widely considered to be one of the greatest works of American theatre. Written early in the feminist movement, "Trifles" is a one-act play that explores how women act in public versus how they are in private. Loosely based on the real-life story of the murder of John Hossack and the suspicion that fell on his wife as the possible murderer, Glaspell's play compares the official investigation of the murder by the men in charge with the unofficial investigation conducted by their wives. The wives find evidence and insight into the mind of the accused murderer in ways completely ignored by their husbands and as a result are able to discover the truth. An instant critical and commercial success, audiences were riveted with the play's ground-breaking portrayal of justice and morality. In 1917, Glaspell revisited the murder investigation and published an adaptation of "Trifles" as the short story "A Jury of Her Peers". Both of these fascinating and thought-provoking works on feminism and the different views that men and women have on what is right versus what is wrong are presented together in this volume. This edition is printed on premium acid-free paper.

SuperSummary, a modern alternative to SparkNotes and CliffsNotes, offers high-quality study guides for challenging works of literature. This 30-page guide for "Trifles" by Susan Glaspell includes detailed chapter summaries and analysis, as well as several more in-depth sections of expert-written literary analysis. Featured content includes commentary on major characters, 15 important quotes, essay topics, and key themes like In a sexist, patriarchal society, men continually underestimate the intelligence and capabilities of women-and ultimately sabotage themselves in so doing and Domestic life and items-as well as the strength and labor required to keep a home-are habitually dismissed by men as insignificant trifles.

Seminar paper from the year 2005 in the subject American Studies - Literature, grade: 1,3, <http://www.uni-jena.de/>, 13 entries in the bibliography, language: English, comment: An extensive analysis of the symbol system in Susan Glaspell's drama "Trifles.", abstract: Susan Glaspell's (1876-1948) literary career increased in significance when she and her husband George Cram Cook moved to their summer residence in Provincetown, Massachusetts, in 1915. They founded the Provincetown Players, a group of dramatists who were about to change the development of American literature considerably. Against the more commercial and conventional Broadway plays, they shifted, as a part of the "'little theatre' movement," the stage into a fisher's house and performed experimental plays. One of these plays was *Trifles*, Susan Glaspell's most reputed dramatic piece, which was first produced in 1916 and published in 1920. Her "first solo one-act play" is based on the Hossack's case, a real murder incident in Iowa on December 2, 1900 when she was a news reporter. Her reflection of this incident deals with an investigation process which takes place in the farmhouse of the murdered John Wright and his imprisoned wife Minnie. The officials, Mr. Peters (the Sheriff), the County Attorney and the neighbour Mr. Hale, search for evidences in this house to convict Minnie of the murder. At the same time, the Sheriff's and Mr. Hale's wives, Mrs. Peters and Mrs. Hale, are supposed to collect clothes for Minnie. While they are in the kitchen, they encounter the important evidences to draw conclusions of Minnie's miserable life, her deed and, hence, take the opportunity to influence the case by concealing the most crucial evidence from the men. The play is innovative, among other things, in the respect that the main characters are absent and that Glaspell, as a consequence, creates a second explanatory level by means of symbols underneath the plot surface. This level circumscribes in detail Minnie

Alone while her parents are away at a special hospital, Cally hears strange sounds in the house which lead her to and through an antique mirror and into another world.

Two women uncover the truth in a rural murder investigation.

DIVThe first in-depth examination of the theatrical achievements of this acclaimed playwright /div

Lakshmi is a thirteen-year-old girl who lives with her family in a small hut on a mountain in Nepal. Though she is desperately poor, her life is full of simple pleasures, like playing hopscotch with her best friend from school, and having her mother brush her hair by the light of an oil lamp. But when the harsh Himalayan monsoons wash away all that remains of the family's crops, Lakshmi's stepfather says she must leave home and take a job to support her family. He introduces her to a glamorous stranger who tells her she will find her a job as a maid in the city. Glad to be able to help, Lakshmi journeys to India and arrives at "Happiness House" full of hope. But she soon learns the unthinkable truth: she has been sold into prostitution. An old woman named Mumtaz rules the brothel with cruelty and cunning. She tells Lakshmi that she is trapped there until she can pay off her family's debt—then cheats Lakshmi of her meager earnings so that she can never leave. Lakshmi's life becomes a nightmare from which she cannot escape. Still, she lives by her mother's words— Simply to endure is to triumph—and gradually, she forms friendships with the other girls that enable her to survive in this terrifying new world. Then the day comes when she must make a decision—will she risk everything for a chance to reclaim her life? Written in spare and evocative vignettes, this powerful novel renders a world that is as unimaginable as it is real, and a girl who not only survives but triumphs.

"Trifles" is a one-act play by Susan Glaspell, who is considered an important feminist writer of the early Twentieth Century. The play was first performed in 1916 by the Provincetown Players in Provincetown, Massachusetts. The playwright played the role of Mrs. Hale. Glaspell is the author of seven full-length plays and eight one-act plays. In addition, she wrote nine novels and three collections of short stories.

One of Susan Glaspell's most popular plays, and one of the first works of American expressionist theatrical art. A pioneering feminist playwright and referred to as "American drama's best-kept secret," Susan Glaspell was a top selling writer in her own time, the founder of the first modern American theatre company, and a leader in Depression era theatrical productions. She is also credited with having discovered playwright Eugene O'Neill.

Essay from the year 2016 in the subject English - Literature, Works, language: English, abstract: In a murder case, it is believed that the only person who knows the truth is the victim. The play composed by Susan Glaspell in 1916 is based on the murder of John Wright where the prime suspect is his wife, Minnie Foster. Henry Peters, the Sheriff, George Henderson, a lawyer, and Lewis Hale, a neighbor access the farmhouse to probe the killing of its former occupant, John Wright. Mrs Peters and Mrs Hale start their individual investigation, collecting items to take to the perpetrator, Minnie. The points to be discussed in this paper include various themes, setting of the play, genre, and the role of women in uncovering the mysteries surrounding the death of Mr. Wright. Even though some men believe that women are inferior to them, Glaspell proves otherwise through her usage of title, setting, themes, genres, and the position of females in uncovering the mystery surrounding the death of Mr Wright. The play is centered on the exploration of the social division brought about by the strict gender roles that allow both men and women to have competing perspectives on almost every issue. As such, Trifles has demonstrated that Susan Glaspell was interested in portraying the competing perspectives of men and women in their approach to different social issues.

When it first appeared in 1767, *The Female American* was called a "sort of second Robinson Crusoe; full of wonders." Indeed, *The Female American* is an adventure novel about an English protagonist shipwrecked on a deserted isle, where survival requires both individual ingenuity and careful negotiations with visiting local Indians. But what most distinguishes Winkfield's novel is her protagonist, a woman who is of mixed race. Though the era's popular novels typically featured women in the confining contexts of the home and the bourgeois marriage market, Winkfield's novel portrays an autonomous and mobile heroine living alone in the wilds of the New World, independently interacting with both Native Americans and visiting Europeans. Moreover, *The Female American* is one of the earliest novelistic efforts to articulate an American identity, and more specifically to investigate what that identity might promise for women. Along with discussion of authorship issues, the Broadview edition contains excerpts from English and American source texts. This is the only edition available.

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It's nearing midnight in Wyoming, where four young conservatives have gathered at a backyard after-party. They've returned home to toast their mentor Gina, newly inducted as president of a tiny Catholic college. But as their reunion spirals into spiritual chaos and clashing generational politics, it becomes less a celebration than a vicious fight to be understood. On a chilly night in the middle of America, Will Arbery's haunting play offers grace and disarming clarity, speaking to the heart of a country at war with itself.

Here in one convenient volume are the two versions of the same story that Susan Glaspell wrote. 'Trifles', her first play, was performed and published in 1916; the following year, Glaspell wrote 'A Jury of Her Peers' as a short story version of the same story in order to reach a wider audience. Both texts are early feminist masterpieces, and with this edition readers can read both versions of this classic story which challenges male prejudice.

Ten essential plays by Neil Simon, one of the world's most celebrated, translated, and widely performed playwrights: *Barefoot in the Park*, *The Odd Couple*, *Plaza Suite*, *The Prisoner of Second Avenue*, *California Suite*, *Chapter Two*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Biloxi Blues*, *Broadway Bound* and *Lost in Yonkers*.

A Doll's House is a three-act play in prose by Henrik Ibsen. The play is significant for its critical attitude toward 19th century marriage norms. In the central character of Nora, Ibsen epitomized the human struggle against the humiliating constraints of social conformity. Nora's ultimate rejection of a smothering marriage and life in 'a doll's house' shocked theatergoers of the late 1800s and opened new horizons for playwrights and their audiences.

On a wharf in Provincetown, Massachusetts, where Greenwich Village bohemians gathered in the summer of 1916, Susan Glaspell was inspired by a sensational murder trial to write *Trifles*, a play about two women who hide a Midwestern farm wife's motive for murdering her abusive husband. Following successful productions of the play, Glaspell became the "mother of American drama." Her short story version of *Trifles*, "A Jury of Her Peers," reached an unprecedented one million readers in 1917. The play and the story have since been taught in classrooms across America and *Trifles* is regularly revived on stages around the world. This collection of fresh essays celebrates the centennial of *Trifles* and "A Jury of Her Peers," with departures from established Glaspell scholarship. Interviews with theater people are included along with two original works inspired by Glaspell's iconic writings.

This volume contains four plays by Susan Glaspell. 1. Her one-act play *Trifles* (1916) which is frequently cited as one of the greatest works of American theatre. 2. *The Outside* (1917) is the shortest and least written about plays by Susan Glaspell. She uses symbolism to convey the emptiness of Mrs. Patrick's life on the outside. Glaspell uses the imagery of the station and the areas beyond to show that Mrs. Patrick is keeping herself away from the things she once knew. Glaspell's use of symbolism aides the characters onstage as well as the audience in realizing the situation the women are facing. 3. *Inheritors* is a four-act play first performed in 1921. The play concerns the legacy of an idealistic farmer who wills his highly coveted midwest farmland to the establishment of a college (Act I). Forty years later, when his granddaughter stands up for the rights of Hindu nationals to protest at the college her grandfather founded, she jeopardizes funding for the college itself and sets herself against her own uncle, the president of the institution's trustees (Act II and III). Ultimately, she defies her family's wishes, and as a consequence is bound for prison herself (Act IV). The play was a defense of free speech and an individual's ability to stand for his or her own ideal during a time of aggressive anti-Communist politics in the US. 4. *The Verge* was one of Susan Glaspell's first full-length plays and is considered by many to be the most complex of her career. The play grew out of Glaspell's recognition of the way in which Victorian society left some women feeling trapped in roles for which they were unsuited.

Samuel French acting edition.

Susan Glaspell was born in Iowa in 1876 to Elmer Glaspell, a hay farmer, and his wife Alice Keating, a public school teacher. She had an older brother, Raymond, and a younger brother, Frank. She was raised on a rural homestead just below the bluffs of the Mississippi River along the western edge of Davenport, Iowa. This property had been bought by her paternal great-grandfather James Glaspell from the

federal government following its Black Hawk Purchase. Having a fairly conservative upbringing, "Susie" was remembered as "a precocious child" who would often rescue stray animals. As the family farm increasingly became surrounded by residential development, Glaspell's worldview was still shaped by the pioneer tales of her grandmother. She told of regular visits by Indians to the farm in the years before Iowa statehood. Growing up directly across the river from Black Hawk's ancestral village, Glaspell was also influenced by the Sauk leader's autobiography; he wrote that Americans should be worthy inheritors of the land. During the Panic of 1893, her father sold the farm, and the family moved into Davenport.

A pioneering feminist playwright and referred to as "American drama's best-kept secret," Susan Glaspell was a top selling writer in her own time, the founder of the first modern American theatre company, and a leader in Depression era theatrical productions. She is also credited with having discovered playwright Eugene O'Neill. Four of Glaspell's plays: *Trifles*, *The Outside*, *The Verge*, and *Inheritors* are included in this volume.

Susan Glaspell (1876-1948) was the co-founder of the Provincetown Players and won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. She was one of the first playwrights. Though long neglected, the four works compiled in this key edition reveal the profound modernity of her concerns. *Trifles* (1916) developed a feminist critique of social roles, while "*Outside* (1917)" opened a debate between the vital force and the unjustified celebration of death. Glaspell showed a considerable proportion of her experimental work in *The Verge* (1921), which was bolder than O'Neill's attempts in many respects. *Inheritors* (1921) is more traditional, it questions the nature and reality of American dedication. Glaspell has long been known for her unique script and has now become an important figure in American theater history.

Enhanced ebook edition of *Trifles* by Susan Glaspell, featuring a full cast audio performance of the play. Written by Susan Glaspell in 1916, *Trifles* is a one-act play about a woman accused of strangling her husband. Based on an actual murder case reported by Glaspell for the *Des Moines News*, the play represented an early exploration of gender relationships in a time when women often were considered to be mere trifles. A groundbreaking feminist play, *Trifles* is often included in anthologies of drama and literature. By merging text and audio, this ebook is a perfect learning tool for enhancing comprehension and enjoyment. It is highly recommended as a study aid for students, teachers, actors and directors. Includes scene-by-scene and word-for-word text and audio of L.A. Theatre Works' full cast performance starring: Jeanie Hackett as Mrs. Peters Amy Madigan as Mrs. Hale Sam McMurray as the Sheriff Steven Vinovich as Mr. Hale Steven Weber as the County Attorney. Directed by Rosalind Ayres for L.A. Theatre Works.

Susan Glaspell's *Trifles*, first performed in Massachusetts in 1916 and inspired by the 1900 trial of Margaret Hossack for the killing of her husband, John, is set at the rural farmhouse of John and Minnie Wright. John Wright is discovered strangled with a rope, and Minnie Wright has been jailed. Sheriff Peters, the county attorney, and a neighboring farmer arrive to collect evidence; two of the wives come along to gather items for Minnie. The men examine the house, but find neither evidence nor motive. The women, however, notice details the men consider to be "trifles," and figure out why Minnie killed her husband. This case asks students to consider the complexities of organizational communication, particularly the process by which some subject matter traditionally counts as important and other content is dismissed as irrelevant or inconsequential. Gender issues are key to Glaspell's play and serve as the foundation upon which the communication issues play out. *Trifles* becomes a way to study the intricacies, strategies, and effects of communication practices within social orders, and is a rich setting for the exploration of communication habits present in organizational settings that elide contributions from members. As such, the play is particularly relevant for management and leadership students seeking to understand the effects of poor organizational communication.

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Trifles--a play exploring what happens when women unite against forces that deny them a voice and identity--has become an international classic, as powerful and relevant today as it was in the summer of 1916, when it was first staged by vacationing friends in a converted fishing wharf in Provincetown, Massachusetts. This biography is the story of its author, Susan Glaspell, and the forces that propelled her from her Midwest birthplace in Davenport, Iowa to Greenwich Village during its glory days, where she established herself as a central figure in the avant-garde community and became the first modern American woman playwright. Glaspell's life is a feminist tale of pioneering in which she broke new ground for women. A journalist by age eighteen, she worked her way through university as a news reporter and became a leading novelist of the period. A co-founder of many of Greenwich Village's important avant-garde institutions, she was a close friend of its leading figures, including Eugene O'Neill. She and O'Neill were equally credited with launching a new type of indigenous drama, hers addressing such pressing topics as suffrage, birth control, female sexuality, marriage equality, socialism, and pacifism. In 1931 she won the Pulitzer Prize for drama. "Out there--lies all that's not been touched--lies life that waits," Claire Archer says in *The Verge*, Glaspell's most experimental play. This biography is the exciting and inspiring story of Glaspell's personal exploration of the same terrain

35 reproducible exercises in each guide reinforce basic reading and comprehension skills as they teach higher order critical thinking skills and literary appreciation. Teaching suggestions, background notes, act-by-act summaries, and answer keys included.

Tracing the evolution of Susan Glaspell's writing, Veronica Makowsky provides fascinating glimpses of the life of a woman who broke the barriers against female journalists, advocated socialism, struggled with the precepts of Greenwich Village free love, was one of the founders of the Provincetown Players, participated in the sessions of the feminist Heterodoxy Club, placed women's concerns on the stage as a playwright and actress, and wrote about a turbulent century of American women with courage, optimism, sensitivity, and love. This is the first full-length book about Glaspell's works, including the fiction and lifewriting that bracketed her relatively brief career as the playwright best-known for the one-act drama *Trifles*. Also the author of many other plays, including the Pulitzer prize-winning *Alison's House*, a number of collected and uncollected short stories, nine novels, and a biography of her husband the iconoclastic George Cram Cook, Glaspell was an artist of formidable, but ill-acknowledged talent. Makowsky places Glaspell's

work in its biographical and cultural context, with particular attention to Glaspell's depiction of women's roles over a century of American history. In addition, she examines closely Glaspell's use of the maternal metaphor and her depiction of women in the role of mothers. This absorbing and revelatory study rescues one of America's literary "foremothers" from relative obscurity, challenging canonical ideas about the circumstances that lead to literary "greatness."

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