

Class difference

Jimmy and his wife Alison come from different classes. He is from working class whereas she is from upper middle class.

Class tensions are dominant throughout the play, and much of Jimmy's abuse is directed at Alison's family, which reflects the deep gap between different classes in England. Class conflict worries Jimmy greatly and he wants to root out the social disharmony created by it. In Jimmy's view, the upper-class members symbolize the fake aristocratic society which is incapable of genuine feelings for any human being.

Osborne shows his concerns over the class problems of the society. This play deals with social discrimination, alienation, man's rebellion against the bonds of custom, anger, despair and frustration of the post-war generation. He highlights the class conflict that exists in the English society, meaning the class inequality between those who belong to the comfortable upper middle class and those who fought their way up in the social ladder by their hard work and intelligence.

Jimmy is the representative of the entire culture who remains nostalgic for the past glory. He is dissatisfied with the society, the legal system, the socio-political system, the educational system, the environment, his wife, his friend and with himself. He wants the things to move in his own way but it does not happen; so he is the most helpless young man who gets irritated with all the happenings in the society.

Throughout the play he mocks his wife mainly because she comes from the upper-class society. His anger is directed towards the members of the upper class to which his wife belongs to.

Jimmy feels that the upper class society must stop its exploitation of the working-class people. He is angry because of these various aspects of life. Jimmy utterly hates Alison's family for their upper-class behaviour. Jimmy is certainly opposed to many aspects of modern life, striking out, in turn, at the Sunday papers, the church, marriage and women in general. He reveals that, all that is required in this society is more understanding and adjustment to live a harmonious life.