

Loss of childhood: The idea of a lost childhood impacts the characters of Jimmy and Alison. For Jimmy the death of his father when he was only ten years and how he is forced to watch the physical and mental death of the man affects him greatly. He is forced to deal with the suffering from an early age. This makes him lost his childhood. Alison's loss of childhood is seen in the way she is forced to grow up too fast by marrying Jimmy. Her youth is wasted in the anger and abuse that Jimmy leaves upon her.

Real life: Jimmy wishes to live a more real and full life. He compares this burning desire to the empty life he lived. He generalizes this emptiness by criticizing writing and opinions in the newspapers. Then he turns his angry to those around him, Alison, Helena and Cliff. Living real life means is one in which man is allowed to feel full emotions. The most real of these emotions is anger. Jimmy believes that anger is the way of truly living.

The Rise and fall of the British Empire: The character of Colonel Redfern, Alison's father, represents the decline and the nostalgia for the British Empire. He stayed many years in India which is a symbol of Britain's imperial reach into the world. In the Edwardian age, Britain reached its height power and the happiest of life. Now the world has moved into an American age. He argues for this declination and the people of the nation cannot understand why they are no longer having the world's greatest power.

The title of the play: The plays' title alludes (refers) to anger over the political, military and social situation of British past. Jimmy comment about the American age illuminates his nostalgia for the former British Empire. His is against those who refuse to believe that such empire does not exist anymore, like Alison's father. For Jimmy, the British Empire represents a point in history in which English man is allowed to truly live as himself. He considers American age as a dreary one unless man is an American in comparison to former British age. That's why whenever he looks back, he feels so angry.