

Unit 14

The End of the Beginning

Sean O'Casey (1880-1964)

Synonyms

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1. steep: precipitous
2. castor: wheel
3. settee: couch, sofa
4. delf: crockery
5. lather: foam
6. scornfully: mockingly, contemptuously
7. debris: rubble, wreckage
8. fiercely: angrily, furiously
9. mow: trim grass, cut grass
10. agony: misery, suffering
26. deliberately: consciously, intentionally
27. mould: shape
28. captivate: attract, charm
29. slumber: sleep, doze
30. gestures: signs
31. maybe: perhaps, possibly, likely
32. pat: tap
33. near-sighted: myopic, purblind, shortsighted

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11. tend: care for, look after
12. violently: angrily, fiercely
13. fling: hurl, throw
14. furiously: angrily
15. put on: wear
16. wonders: marvels
17. frightened: afraid, scared, terrified
18. manage: carry out, cope, handle
19. temper: anger, rage, fury
20. chatter: gossip, talk
21. set somebody on: incite, provoke
22. nag: criticize
23. goad: incite, provoke
24. margin: edge, verge, brink
25. assemble: arrange, gather

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34. cheerio: goodbye
35. hail: greet, salute, welcome
36. stroll: amble, saunter
37. distant: far-off, remote, far-flung
38. glance: glimpse, peek
39. whirling: rotating, spinning
40. rattle: clatter, clang
41. dart out: leap out, spring out
42. hurriedly: hastily, quickly
43. cram in: stuff in, squeeze in
44. fix: attach, place
45. stiff: inflexible, rigid, tense
46. stroke: hit
47. directions: commands, instructions
48. awkwardly: inelegantly, ungracefully

- 49. clumsily: unskillfully
- 50. puffingly: breathlessly, pantingly
- 51. commence: begin, start, initiate
- 52. partial: incomplete
- 53. presently: soon, shortly
- 54. go through: perform, carry out, execute
- 55. keep to: follow, synchronize with
- 56. catch up: reach, match
- 57. recommence: restart, resume

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- 58. spectacles: glasses
- 59. greet: welcome
- 60. flexible: bendable, supple
- 61. prologue: introduction, opening, prelude
- 62. dubiously: doubtfully, suspiciously
- 63. reluctantly: hesitatingly, unwillingly
- 64. mar: damage, ruin
- 65. rapidly: briskly, swiftly, quickly
- 66. tune: melody
- 67. force: compel, pressure
- 68. frantic: hurried, frenzied
- 69. dawn: realize
- 70. exhausted: fatigued, tired, weary
- 71. manfully: boldly, bravely, courageously
- 72. scornfully: contemptuously, mockingly, derisively
- 73. jammed: blocked
- 74. entertaining: amusing
- 75. rosary: prayer beads
- 76. stretch: extend, spread

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- 77. several: many, various
- 78. blame: accuse
- 79. excitedly: enthusiastically, eagerly
- 80. hum: murmur
- 81. aggravated: increased, intensified
- 82. patience: endurance, forbearance
- 83. spoil: damage, impair, mar
- 84. limber: loose, relaxed
- 85. tense: stiffen, tighten
- 86. splendidly: beautifully, wonderfully
- 87. altogether: completely, entirely, fully
- 88. indignantly: bitterly, resentfully, furiously
- 89. foster: nurture, cultivate
- 90. underway: in progress, ongoing
- 91. fall short of: fail
- 92. pitiful: saddening
- 93. halt: pause, stop
- 94. testily: angrily, irritably

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- 95. distinctly: clearly, evidently, obviously
- 96. egotist: narcissist, self-centred
- 97. handsome: attractive, charming
- 98. meditate: contemplate, deliberate, ponder, reflect
- 99. murmur: mutter, whisper
- 100. brewing: forming, rising
- 101. appreciate: admire, praise, commend

102. proclaiming: announcing,
declaring
103. dignity: honor
104. blighted: destroyed, ruined
105. modest: humble, unpretentious
106. delightful: enjoyable, pleasant
107. intently: attentively
108. steady: constant, even, stable

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109. dared: challenged
110. galloping by: passing quickly,
speeding along
111. expedite: accelerate, speed up
112. strike: realize
113. loitering: dawdling, idling
114. jiggling: shaking
115. libel: defamation, smear
116. strutting: prancing, swaggering
117. calisthenics: gymnastics
118. flung: hurled, threw
119. tangle: confusion
120. give a hand: assist, help
121. orderly: organized, systematic

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122. puzzled: bewildered, confused
123. twist: bend, wrench
124. slight: small, minor, little
125. look out: beware, be careful
126. deposit: place, put
127. peer: gaze
128. heatedly: angrily, furiously
129. tiny: little, small

130. hardly: barely, scarcely
131. fodder: hay
132. dash: run, rush
133. dejectedly: sadly, sorrowfully
134. bump: bang, thud

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135. elevating: lifting, raising
136. bend: lean, stoop
137. moan: wail, mourn
138. resentment: anger, bitterness,
indignation
139. handy: convenient, useful
140. fasten: attach, fix
141. exasperation: annoyance,
irritation
142. plunges: falls
143. consternation: anxiety, dismay,
distress

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144. chained up: confined, restrained
145. pull asunder: split, break
146. delicate: fragile
147. smash: break, splinter
148. speechless: astonished, shocked
149. fright: fear, scare, terror
150. clasped: pressed, gripped
151. slaughter: cut, wound, injure
152. scattered: strewn
153. handicapped: disabled
154. limit: reduce, restrict
155. pause: break, interval

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- 156. fading: dimming, lessening
- 157. trample: crush, squash
- 158. mockery: ridicule, sneer
- 159. vehemently: emphatically, forcefully
- 160. gingerly: carefully, cautiously
- 161. headway: development, progress
- 162. tumble: fall

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- 163. sling: hang
- 164. faintly: dimly, weakly
- 165. shipshape: orderly, organized
- 166. toddle: totter, wobble
- 167. startled: alarmed, shocked
- 168. strain: pull

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- 169. mount: climb
- 170. magnanimous: generous
- 171. blather: prattle, babble
- 172. cellar: storeroom, basement
- 173. jubilantly: happily, joyfully
- 174. plenty of: much, a lot of
- 175. lashing: a lot of, plenty
- 176. outlet: spout, opening

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- 177. staggering: stumbling, wobbling
- 178. appealingly: imploringly, pleadingly
- 179. panorama: view, scene

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- 180. brood: worry about, overthink

Question Answers

- 1. In what ways does the play critique traditional gender roles, especially concerning domestic work?**

Ans. Darry considers Lizzie's household work to be easy. He thinks that he can do the work quickly, but when he attempts to do that, he fails. The play critiques traditional gender roles concerning domestic work through Darry's failure to do household chores.

- 2. Do you think the play suggests that certain tasks are gender-specific, or does it emphasize the importance of experience over gender? Explain your answer.**

Ans. No, the play does not suggest that certain tasks are gender-specific. It emphasizes that experience is required to do a task, not gender. It does so through Darry's inexperience with and failure at household works.

3. How does Darry's overconfidence serve as a lesson for the audience? What might the playwright be trying to teach about pride and humility?

Ans. Darry thinks that he can do Lizzie's work quickly, but when he starts doing that, he fails. His overconfidence leads to his failure to complete the household tasks. It also serves as a lesson for the audience. The playwright illustrates that pride hath a fall. He also tries to teach that we should remain humble.

4. Do you think the farcical elements of the play are effective in conveying a deeper message? Why or why not?

Ans. Yes, the farcical elements of the play are effective in conveying a deeper message. Through the farcical elements of the play, the writer emphasizes that skill is determined by experience, not gender.

5. The play uses humour to explore serious themes. Do you believe that comedy is an effective medium for addressing social issues? Why or why not?

Ans. Yes, comedy is an effective medium for addressing social issues. It helps people enjoy and learn a lesson simultaneously.

6. How might the play's themes be relevant to today's society? Are the issues raised still present in today's society?

Ans. Yes, the play's themes are relevant to today's society. Many people still think that some tasks are gender-specific. They consider household work to be easy.

7. What role does the humour play in the play? How does it contribute to the plot and character development?

Ans. The humour plays an important role in the play. It teaches the audience lessons through Darry's and Barry's funny mistakes and Darry's failure to complete household tasks. It contributes to the plot development through the comic failures of Darry. It contributes to the development of Darry's character by showing his pride and overconfidence at the beginning and by exposing his complete inexperience with household chores.

8. What is the significance of Darry's mistakes and failures in the play?

Ans. Darry's mistakes and failures in the play help the audience learn a lesson that skill is determined by experience, not gender, and we should not be proud and should be humble.