

The Trip to Bountiful

Discussion Questions

1. How would you describe the relationships between the characters? How is Mrs. Watt's relationship with Ludie different from her relationship with Jessie Mae? How would you describe the relationship between Ludie and Jessie Mae?
2. The play is titled "The Trip to Bountiful," indicating that this is a unique and singular trip. Why is this important?
3. What role does memory have in this play?
4. When Mrs. Watts is on her trip, she learns that her childhood friend has died and that most of the people she knew from her childhood are gone. Yet when she arrives in Bountiful, she's not sad. Why do you think this is?
5. Why do you think some secondary characters have names (like Roy and Thelma) and some are only identified by their role (Ticket Agent, Sheriff)?
6. Mrs. Watts tells Ludie, "I used to think I was gonna buy you the world back in those days. I remember remarking that to my Papa. He said the world can't be bought. I didn't rightly understand what he meant then." What do you think her Papa meant? Why do you think Mrs. Watts understands it now?
7. What role does regret have in the play? Which characters have regrets, and what are they?
8. How does each character change by the end of the play? Does any character change more than the others?
9. What do you think happens when they return to Houston? What comes next for the Watts family?
10. Is there a moment or place you to which you would want to return? Perhaps a favorite grade, a group of people, or an experience in your life? If you're comfortable doing so, share about it with a classmate.

