

# Top Girls

## Caryl Churchill

### Suggested Discussion Questions

1. How does Churchill's play explore the tensions between work and private life?
2. Marlene and Joyce seem to represent different ideas of what modern women can and ought to do with their lives. Discuss the key differences between these characters and what they mean for Churchill's play.
3. What is the role of travel in the play, and in the lives of the various women who discuss their experiences of it?
4. How does Churchill use language to establish a particular character's identity, class, or social status? Choose and discuss some key examples.
5. Why are there no men physically present in *Top Girls*? What does this say about the play and Churchill's message?
6. *Top Girls* moves backward in time over the course of Act 3, from Angie's visit to London to Marlene's visit to Joyce's house. Discuss this flashback technique and its effect on our perception of the relationship between Joyce, Angie, and Marlene.
7. *Top Girls* is widely acknowledged as a piece of feminist socialist drama. Explain this categorization and why it is an appropriate description of Churchill's play.
8. How does Churchill's play represent the power and status of the individual in the 1970s and 80s capitalist society?
9. The historical figures of Act 1 tell stories about their lives that are strikingly different. At the same time, the play suggests that these women all share something important. Discuss this idea and explain its centrality to the play.

