

**Betrayal**

By Harold Pinter

**Suggested Discussion Questions**

1. What are the themes of *Betrayal*?
2. What is the emotional tone of the opening and how does that change as we go back in time?
3. The most significant device used in *Betrayal* is reverse chronological order. Being that this is not the usual way a play or story unfolds, what effect do you think it was intended to produce?
4. How does the tension in the story build?
5. How is the relationship between language and betrayal emphasized throughout the play?
6. Did you find instances of irony?
7. How are the pauses significant and very useful as a dramatic tool in the play? How do the silences mean different things and feel different?
8. What is the significance of Jerry's 'throwing Claire up in the air'? Why do you think this memory is repeated several times throughout the play? Is there any symbolism there for the characters?
9. How does the revelation that Robert has also been deceiving Emma for years change the way you see the situation between them?
10. Why do you think Robert does nothing to stop Emma's affair with Jerry, and instead just have affairs of his own?
11. How did Emma and Jerry's relationship end? When do we first know about it?
12. What does Jerry mean when he says he was Emma's best man, not Robert's?
13. Who would you say is the protagonist and who is the antagonist?
14. What are your views on marriage and monogamy?

