

Themes in the play

Find quotations that illustrate each of the following ideas in the play. You do not necessarily need to find quotations which include these words in them but each one does need to show something about the idea.

Traditions / Culture

Masculinity

Justice

Marriage

Aggression / Violence

Pride

Poverty / Wealth

Growing up

Loyalty

Tragedy / Fate

Family

Work

Relationships

Reputation

Honour

Now, explain what each quotation reveals to us, the audience. Look at the example below, to get you started:

Masculinity

Eddie: Just what I said, he sings. Right on the deck, all of a sudden, a whole song comes out of his mouth – with motions. ... He's like weird. He comes out on the pier, one-two-three, it's a regular free show.

Rodolfo's singing does not fit in with Eddie's understanding of what it is to be a man; he feels that Rodolfo draws attention to himself when he should be fitting in with what the other workers do and expect. To Eddie, working men are physical and aggressive: they bowl and box, drink and talk.
