

THINGS MENTIONED IN THE PLAY WIS WHICH YOU MIGHT NOT BE FAMILIAR.

HARBINGER: an omen

IDES OF MARCH: reference to the date March 15, when roman leader Julius Caesar was assassinated in 44 B.C.

AMITY: friendship

DOROTHY PARKER: an American writer known for her wisecracking wit who produced poetry, short stories and screenplays in the mid-20th century

DOTAGE: an offensive term for the lack of strength or concentration sometimes believed to be characteristic of old age

REPAST: a meal

NYMPH: a woman with graceful, delicate, fairy-like features

NAME-DAY: the feast day of the saint after whom a person is named

AGAMEMNON: a Greek leader during the Trojan War who was killed by his wife upon his return

NORMA DESMOND: a character in the 1950 film Sunset Boulevard who was a fading moving star

HARPY: a nagging or bad-tempered woman

TRAIPSING: to wander without purpose

MAGGIE SMITH: an english actress who has won two oscars and been appointed a Dame Commander of the order of the British empire for her contributions to the performing arts. You may know her as professor McGonagall.

STANLEY KOWALSKI: a working-class character from the 1947 Tennessee Williams play A Streetcar Named Desire

PIRANDELLIAN: describing a drama in which actors become inseparable and indistinct from the characters that they play; reference to the works of early-20th century Italian dramatist and poet luigi pirandello

SANGUINE: cheerful

POLLYANNA: an eternal optimist; reference to the child heroine of the 1913 eponymous novel

PRESENTIMENT: a feeling that something will happen

SELF-EFFACEMENT: humility or modesty

CAVORTING: frolicking or behaving in a festive manner

HARANGUE: a tirade

ETHEREAL: exquisite in an otherworldly manner