Exploring Transitions

Educating Rita Questions

ACT ONE

**Scene One:**

1. What do we know about Rita? List 5-10 qualities about her.
2. What do we know about Frank? List 5-10 qualities about him.
3. What does Rita want to know?
4. “(*She goes to the window and looks out).* God, what’s it like to be free?” What does she see the window to be for her transition?
5. Discuss what Rita explains about conformity.
6. What does she say about ‘change’?
7. Discuss the relationship between Frank and Rita

**Scene Two:**

1. What is the significance of Rita oiling the door? What could the door be a metaphor for?
2. What are the stage directions important for this ‘motif’?
3. How does Rita explore the transition from scene 1 to scene 2?
4. Rita refers to ‘proper students’. What does she believe to be a ‘proper student’?
5. Throughout scene 2, Rita refers to another ‘change’. What is the metaphor she refers to?
6. What did Frank do before becoming an O.U. tutor? Why did he make this transition?
7. How does the relationship between Rita and Frank grow from scene 1 to scene 2? (Pages 22-23)
8. What have you noticed about the structure of the play so far?

**Scene Three:**

1. How is Rita’s confidence in her education growing? What is still holding her back?

**Scene Four:**

1. Why doesn’t Rita write her essay at home? Why is this a barrier for Rita’s transition?
2. RITA Yeh. What d’ y’ think I am, thick? (*She takes her usual chair and puts it in front of the window desk….)*

How has Russell used the stage directions to make the window symbolic?

1. What was *Peer Gynt* looking for? How does this relate to Rita and ‘the working class culture’? – Quote page 29-30
2. What is Denny frightened off? Why?

**Scene Five:**

1. What does Denny do to Rita’s books? Why?
2. *“I’m busy enough findin’ meself, let alone findin’ someone else” –* How does Rita explain her relationship with Frank to Denny?
3. *“… hopin that the presents ‘ll make her come back. But she can’t, because she’s gone, an’ I’ve taken her place”*

Analyse what Rita is trying to say in this quote.

1. At the end of the play, Rita convinces Frank to see an ‘amateur’ play. What does she say about the actors where she could be insinuating herself?

**Scene Six:**

1. Rita goes to a live Shakespeare performance after thinking it would be ‘dead boring’ because she ‘wanted to find out’. How are we seeing Rita’s transition? Use terminology from the rubric.
2. The stage direction (*Rita smiles at Frank and he smiles back at her)* is an important part of the play. Why?
3. After Frank explains the difference between a tragedy and something tragic she states, ‘*I’m not used to thinkin’ like this’.* Does Rita start to understand? How can we tell that she is growing in the ‘educational world?’ Use the quotes around this quote, to answer the question.

**Scene Seven:**

1. What stopped Rita going inside at Frank’s dinner?
2. “*But I don’t want to be myself. Me? What’s me?”* We start to see Rita doubt herself. Analyse this quote, relating to the rubric. Use other quotes from this scene to help you.
3. Why didn’t Rita ‘pack it in’? What was it that her mother had said? How did this help Rita?

**Scene Eight:**

1. What was the ‘ultimatum’ Denny gave Rita? What does she say about ‘betrayal'?
2. What is Denny’s idea about education?
3. Why does Frank refer to Rita’s essay as ‘worthless’?
4. Why doesn’t Frank want Rita to change? What is Rita’s response? Why is she so eager for this change to happen?