

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.

Chosen question number: Question 2 ☒ Question 3 ☒ Question 4 ☒
Question 5 ☒ Question 6 ☒ Question 7 ☒
Question 8 ☒

~~Using this extract as a starting point~~

Discuss how Miller presents the developing tension caused by Kate's search for signs that Larry is still alive.

PLAN

pg 14 does she know about the tree
She's getting just like after he died.

The conversations between Kelle & Chris that they know
Larry is dead

packing Annie's bag
awkward conversations with Annie
more and more disagreements with Kate as she becomes more
irate.

Symbolism → the tree

Imagery

Pathetic fallacy - lightning



(~~*~~ added on to start of answer on the next page. Please turn over to see) ^{asterisk}

* Miller introduces to us early on that all is not well with Kate. The play is introduced with Frank, Joe and Jim talking when the conversation switches to Frank planning a horoscope for Larry, to find out if it was a 'favourable day'. "See the point is, if November 25th was his favourable day, then it's possible he's alive somewhere." This sets the tense atmosphere ~~even~~ early on, it relies on the reader's schema and personal experiences to see how ridiculous and potentially dangerous it is to offer false hope to someone grieving. This view is confirmed by Miller's notes of the ~~actor~~ characters looking at Frank as though he is 'an idiot.' The conversation then moves on which builds tension further because there is the sense of something left unsaid / unresolved.

This tension develops further when Chris and Keller discuss the broken tree and how Kate will react. Frank had previously mentioned ~~to~~ or is was Larry's tree and that it was interesting it had blown down on the month of his birthday. The tension is further developed by the conversation being interrupted by Bert and other characters. This disjointed discourse makes the reader feel unsettled, it breaks up the cohesion of the text increasing the tension.



This is developed when we find out that Kate saw the tree break. "When it cracked she ran back into the house and cried in the kitchen." The characters then discuss that Kate has been dreaming about Larry again and her condition is regressing to like just before he went missing. This pushes the tension further because we haven't met Kate yet, so we don't know what to expect. By foreshadowing his appearance this way the reader is aware of his situation and on the edge of their seat to see what she is like.

~~By the point of the extract~~

(previous work attached)

START OF ANSWER

The extract comes in at quite a tense point in the story where Chris is trying to assist Kate. It's clear Chris is trying to write off Kate's behaviour as physical illness however in their exchange Kate explains it's not headache. In the early conversation tension is built up as the Keller men both almost try to argue with her this way because of physical reasons such as headache or lack of sleep. Kate persists that it is neither of their explanations.



She then ~~describle~~ describes the dream. The dream starts off sad, a grieving mother's dream but then ~~uses~~ when she wakes up it's clear she's reading signs from the ~~use~~ weather. Miller uses simile to compare the wind to the roaring of Larry's engine creating tension because you become aware of how Kate is interpreting these signs. The weather also acts as pathetic fallacy, the storm adds dramatic effect and creates a feeling of foreboding.

Their conversation then about the tree shows that the tree is symbolic of Larry. Whether or not Chris and Keller agree, it is clear to the reader in ~~our way~~ that the tree symbolises Larry and the ~~use~~ pathetic fallacy of the weather prepares us for drama or news late on in the story. This symbolism immediately sets the reader on edge which is further developed by Chris and Kate's exchange where it becomes apparent Chris is ~~of~~ bringing up Larry's death more frequently. The fact Kate clearly isn't ready builds tension.

This exchange is foreshadowed by a build up of tense conversations between Keller and Chris * ^{answer from previous page continues here}



The play is set after WW2. So Kate would have had limited contact through Larry ~~and~~ through letters ~~and~~ and is the only ~~one~~ information she has to go by is newspapers with similar stories. This sense of loss and isolation compounds the tension further. Kate has a toxic combination of not enough information mixed with false hope to make it seem like she is on the very verge of hysteria. Her characterisation adds to the tension because she seems so volatile and on the edge. Leading her to read into more and more ~~or~~ unrealistic signs, like the tree snapping and Frank's horoscopes.

Frank comes back with the horoscope at a pivotal point. ~~This~~ His appearance interrupts an already important conversation creating tension by ~~fragment~~ breaking up the discourse. This leads Kate to pack Annie's bags which develops tension through our expectations of Annie's reactions but also through the increasingly hysterical/unhinged ~~character~~ characterisation of Kate.

This developing tension is also presented through the syntax and presentation of speech. The exchanges use short sentences to mirror fast and urgent speech.



This can be seen clearly in Kate's exchange with Ann when she has taken her in return as a sign Larry may be alive and someone else holds hope as much as she does.

Ann: No Kate.

Mother: But deep in your heart, Annie."

Chris: She ought to know, shouldn't she.

and

These short sentences develop tension ~~but~~ ^{and} also so does Kate's belief that if Ann thinks Larry is alive that is a sign that he is. Miller develops tension this way because it is clear from the ~~charac'~~ characterisation of Ann she won't say things to appease people so it's clear the exchanges with Kate are going to come to an explosive conclusion if neither backs down.

Furthermore Miller develops tension further through the context of the situation. It's clear that because Keller would have been alive through the Great Depression he ~~plays~~ places a high-value on money which is what he uses to justify his crime and perjury - to provide for and protect his family. It's implied through Kate is aware of what actually happened but can't face it because of the links it may have to Larry



there is frequent mention he did not drive a P-40 plane. Because of Keller's reasoning and justification it's easier for Kate to believe his lies rather than face his crime. This then feeds into Kate's creation of her own world and signs within. A world where Keller was just incompetent, the neighbours still like them and they remain a pillar of the community, a world where signs such as the tree breaking and Frank's astrology proves Larry is alive. Therefore tension is developed through any interaction which could threaten Kate's world and in turn force her to acknowledge Larry's death. Chris and Ann's engagement seriously threaten this fragile world and so any interactions surrounding this develop tension.

