

How crucial is Alfieri's role in A View from the Bridge?

Alfieri – bearer(carrier), someone who carries the story. In A View from the Bridge, Alfieri is a narrator and a character at the same time. As a character he is a lawyer. He was born in Italy. He came to US 25 years ago and work in Brooklyn. He is a part of the same immigrant Italian community as Eddie. He acts like a commentator. When the play starts he sets the scene and introduces the characters. "He opens and closes the story". As the narrator he starts, and finishes the job. We can also say that Alfieri is a "Greek Chorus" (BBC Bitesize "Alfieri", 2014). This makes Alfieri an influential character.

In comparison to other characters, Alfieri's role is one of the most important ones. His role could be compared to Eddie's or Marco's, because those are quite equal to each other. Alfieri is commenting on the action and explaining it to the audience, but unable to change it. Dramatic techniques are used such as descriptive writing, repetition etc. The audience see all the events happening, tension grows and they understand that the ending will be devastating.

"A View from the Bridge" is a view from Arthur Miller's "culture" (AM interview, BBC, 1987). He wanted to make sure that the reader would inch-by-inch understand more about characters. Miller tried to make a "bridge" between characters, from Italy to USA, from Eddie, Catherine and Beatrice, to Marco and Rodolfo. Arthur Miller's main idea was to make young people to understand the "classics".

"Justice is very important here." (S. Marino "A View from the Bridge with commentaries", Bloomsbury, 2010)

Because Alfieri is a lawyer, he explains that in his legal practise he had some deals with longshoremen and their wives in compensation cases. Every single lawyer in the world wants people to be fair and equal to each other. Audience is more likely to trust Alfieri because he is a lawyer.

"In this neighbourhood to meet a lawyer or a priest in the street is unlucky."

This shows that people live in rough area and people not always doing legal things.

relevant
personal
anecdotal

sound
understanding
of structure
- form

appropriate
critical
style

clearly
relevant
examples

good
overview

awareness
of foreshadowing
examples

AD

AD

"You are about to see a tragedy, everybody!" (s. Hurley "Inside of A View from the Bridge", Insight Publications, 2004)

No, it isn't. This quotation tells us that there is not going to be "Happy End" in this story. She wanted to say that someone is going to die at the end of the play. This is an opening quotation, so it will intrigue the reader.

Alfieri is the "bridge" between characters and cultures. "I'm inclined to notice the ruins in things, perhaps because I was born in Italy... I only came here when I was twenty-five." As he came to US 25 years ago, he is the best positioned character to tell us the story. A "bridge" can also be like a route from illegality to legal status. Because Alfieri is a "lawyer", that means that he can help Rodolpho to become legal. The characters in the story are slowly changing, but Alfieri is the one who does not. Miller wants us to think that Alfieri is the antagonist. He is a compassionate, he tries to save Eddie and Marco from fatal course that they are set on. Because Alfieri is half American and half Italian, he is in the position to empathise with the other characters, like Eddie - "Eddie! Even those who understand will turn against you, even the ones who feel the same will despise you!". This is repetition. Here, Alfieri tries to say that Eddie cares about Catherine too much, that he must let her go, because Catherine has grown up already. Catherine can decide on her own whatever she wants to do. If she wants to work in the company, Eddie must let her do that. She also has a good pay-out at her job which is a good bonus for Eddie, because he has problems with money, so they could start living better than before.

Anyone who wants to talk to someone about their problems, they go to Alfieri for advice. He is good-humoured and thoughtful. Every other character respects Alfieri, because he is experienced and knows what moral is based on.

Through the entire play, Alfieri is on the side of the American law. "You have no recourse in the law." - said Alfieri to Eddie.

He said that there is nothing illegal with Catherine and Rodolfo's relationship. He advised Eddie to leave Catherine alone. However, Eddie was worried about her.

Basically, along the play Alfieri gives advices to other characters. When Eddie called the Immigration Bureau, lawyer went to help out Rodolfo and Marco. He made Marco to promise not to take the revenge on Eddie. Alfieri said that only "God" has right to judge.

sound analysis of character

some comment on language

sound knowledge of the play

not explained

Miller ends the play with Alfieri's words. "And so i mourn him - I admit it - with a certain ... alarm". This quotation has the pause in the middle of the sentence for effect, which is to create the final tension. Alfieri regrets about Eddie's death. This can be proven by the following quotation: "his death useless". This is the most tragic and sentimental moment in the story.

Alfieri had a very difficult job, he played as a character and narrator at the same time. His goal was to bring the idea to the reader in the way the reader will understand. Alfieri, as one of the most important characters, completed his job.

by now
fully
recovered
examples
sound
understands
of language
& structure

A02

could be
explained why

