

my fair lady



CHARACTER STUDIES

The central character in *My Fair Lady* is, perhaps, Eliza, rather than Higgins, as everything revolves around the relationships of others to her. On the page below try to write a summary of that relationship for each character. We have started you off.

Henry Higgins:

An eccentric professor of phonetics.
At first he sees Eliza as just a challenge, a way to win a bet.
But, gradually, he learns to see her as a person.

Colonel Pickering:

Alfred Doolittle:

Mrs Higgins:

Freddy Eynsford-Hill:

Mrs Pearce:

Activity Sheet

Theme

Every play has a THEME. Every book and movie does, too.

Theme: the main idea or ethical precept of the play.

Theme is the same as topic, subject matter, premise or thesis.

My Fair Lady focuses on the theme of TRANSFORMATION.

List three examples of how the theme of transformation is illustrated in the plot of *My Fair Lady*. Be very specific.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Do these examples connect to the objectives of the characters?

Think about your favorite movie or book. Answer the following questions:

Title: _____

What is the theme: _____

List examples of how the theme is illustrated:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Discussion question: What would happen if a story had no theme?

Activity Sheet

A Good Plot

Plot: what happens in a play; the story/stories being told as revealed by what the characters say about themselves or each other; the action of the play.

Here are sixteen plot points from the script of *My Fair Lady*.

Put them in the order they take place in the script
by placing a number (1 to 16) in the space at the left.

- _____ Eliza finally “gets it”.
- _____ Higgins realizes he has deep feelings for Eliza.
- _____ Eliza is a success and her feelings are hurt.
- _____ Eliza asks Higgins for lessons.
- _____ Higgins and Pickering make the bet.
- _____ Higgins meets Pickering and Eliza outside Covent Garden.
- _____ Freddie comes to visit Eliza.
- _____ Eliza is presented at the Embassy Ball.
- _____ Higgins works Eliza very hard.
- _____ Eliza returns to Higgins.
- _____ Freddy tells Eliza he is in love with her.
- _____ Eliza’s father finds out she is living with Higgins.
- _____ Eliza is tried out at the Ascot Races.
- _____ Eliza is not recognized by her old friends.
- _____ Eliza’s father takes money from Higgins.
- _____ Eliza leaves Higgins.

A good plot... keeps you guessing.

A good plot... surprises you.

A good plot... will have multiple themes.

A good plot... builds on a strong central conflict.

Activity Sheet

Character & Relationship

The **central character** in *My Fair Lady* is Eliza, as everything revolves around the relationship of the other characters to her.
For each character listed below, define that relationship and how each character “transforms” because of Eliza’s growth and change.

Henry Higgins: _____

Colonel Pickering: _____

Freddy Eynsford-Hill: _____

Alfred P. Doolittle: _____

Mrs. Pearce: _____

Mrs. Higgins: _____

