

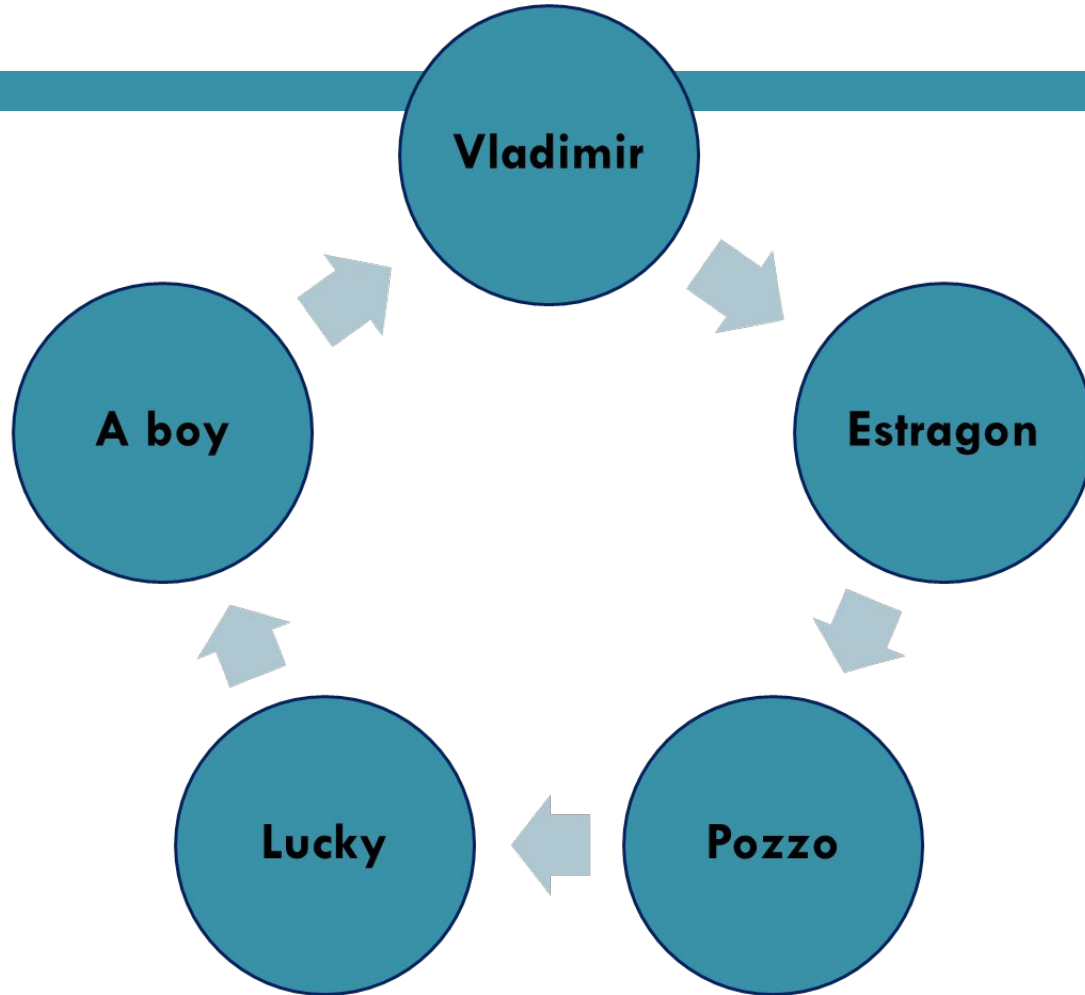
Time and Place in Waiting for Godot


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CHARACTERS





Waiting for Godot is a story of ‘time’ written in the form of ‘absurd’, set during two consecutive days. The two main characters are tramps awaiting Godot’s arrival.

Waiting for Godot


French playwrights *Eugène Ionesco's* definition for the 'absurd':

Absurd is that which is devoid of purpose...Cut off from his religious, metaphysical, and transcendental roots, man is lost; all his actions become senseless, absurd, useless (23).



Anthony Chadwick refers to this in his article
“Waiting for Godot”:

We seem to have a choice between waiting for one “better” thing after another or simply living with what we have. Both past and future are illusions, and seen under this aspect, we begin to taste the notion of eternity.



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Vladimir: What do we do now?

Estragon: Wait.

Vladimir: Yes, but while waiting.

Estragon: What about hanging ourselves?

Vladimir: Hmm. It'd give us an erection!

Estragon: (highly exited). An erection!



Estragon: You're sure it was this evening?

Vladimir: What?

Estragon: That we were to wait.

Vladimir: He said Saturday. (Pause) I think.

Estragon: You think...But what Saturday? And is it Saturday? It is not rather Saturday? Or Monday? Or Friday? ...Or Thursday? (10-11).



Estragon: And If he doesn't come?

Vladimir: We'll come back to-morrow.

Estragon: And the day after to-morrow.

Vladimir: Possibly.

Estragon: And so on.

Vladimir: The point is.

Estragon: Until he comes (10).

Place



In *Waiting for Godot* a space without identification of its background, either materially or culturally, is created or applies to the world in general. This allows the audience to focus on the dialogue itself rather than the scenery.



Estragon: What is it?

Vladimir: I don't know. A willow.

Estragon: Where are the leaves?

Vladimir: It must be dead (10).

Symboldictionary.net also suggests that the tree could symbolize the connection between life and death, "Egyptian's Holy Sycamore stood on the threshold of life and death, connecting the worlds"



Thanks