

MARGULIES JOURNAL ENTRY #1

Donald Margulies' play *The Country House* is built on the premise that a family gathers in its big, old summer house to mark the one-year anniversary of the death of Kathy, their beloved daughter, wife, mother, lover, friend. As each of the characters enters the house, we get to know them and their "issues." A multi-generational gathering, the family and friends reunite, "catch up," and share news of their lives.

Take a few minutes to note the chief traits of each character. What can you say about each that describes them—physically, emotionally, intellectually, morally? What motivates each character? Then take a few minutes to predict the arch (or direction of growth) for each character. Given the information provided in Act One, what predictions can you make about the play's outcome? How will the characters interact? How will they grow? How will the memory of Kathy affect them?

Characters: Susie, Walter, Anna, Elliot, Michael, and Nell.

Write without stopping for 30 minutes.