

MARGULIES JOURNAL ENTRY #3

In Donald Margulies' play *The Country House*, family and friends gather in their big, old summer house to mark the one-year anniversary of the death of Kathy. In Act One, we meet each character and are introduced to their "issues." In Act Two, tensions ignite and build to an awkward encounter between Michael and Nell. In Act Three, conflicts reach their peak, and moments of clarity and reconciliation follow.

From the standpoint of the end of the play, briefly track the emotional journey of each character. What central problem was each character forced to confront? How did they deal with it? What themes emerge as the play reaches its culmination? What is Donald Margulie's saying in this play about family, love, commitment, fame, death?

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

Write without stopping for 30 minutes.