

“IND/ AFF,” Weldon Discussion Guide

1. Do you agree with Weldon’s first line, “This is a sad story”? Explain.
2. *SET.2.A* – How does the rain establish the setting and mood for the story in the first five paragraphs?
3. *CHR.1.A* – Characterize Peter. What details concerning him reveal his personality?
4. *CHR.1.D* – Describe the narrator’s odd and complex (___ yet ___) relationship with Peter using specific textual details. Perhaps consider how you think he regards her and why is she attracted to him.
5. *SET.2.B* – What function does Sarajevo serve for the story’s setting?
6. *STR.3.E* – What is the function of having the story of Princip’s assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife woven through the plot?
7. *CHR.1.D* – How is the “buildup of tensions” leading to World War I and Princip’s shot a metaphor for their relationship?
8. *CHR.1.A* – Describe Mrs. Piper. Though she doesn’t appear in the story, she does have an important role. What do you think her role is?
9. *STR.3.E* – What is the significance of the two waiters (paras. 38-41)? How do they affect the narrator?
10. *CHR.1.B* – Why does the narrator become a dynamic character by deciding to go home? What is the function of her change to the story?
11. *SET.2.C* – After considering the narrator’s character change, how would you describe the relationship