

Spring and Port Wine

Critical Evaluation

TASK

'A realistic character will have both good and bad qualities.'

Explain the part played by Rafe Crompton in *Spring and Port Wine* by Bill Naughton. Consider the character of Rafe and assess whether he has both bad and good qualities.

NOTES

Rafe's part in the drama:

Daisy's husband; father to Hilda, Florence, Wilfred and Harold; comes into conflict with Betsy Jane and Arthur. A focal point for the audience to like/dislike.

Rafe's Actions

Ban on Smoking: 'When will you learn some sense?'

Ban on Drink: 'Wine is a turncoat - starts off as a friend and then turns into an enemy.'

Ban on Magazines: 'Do you have to waste your money on such trash?'

Ban on TV: 'Just feel how soothing a bit of quiet is.'

Poetry: 'I only hope they take me away in my wooden box when I fail to be stirred by such beauty.'

Bible: 'You may question every fact in this holy book - but who dare say every word isn't God's truth!'

Music: 'Seeing's nothing - hearing's nothing. It's the participation. You've got to enter into the Messiah.'

Accounts Book: 'Money can be a good servant - but a very poor master. So always have it right.'

Overcoat: 'as a lad he musta gone round starved to death with the cold - an' now he's trying to make it up to himself.' (Harold)

Herring: 'If you get the better of me you'll be the first in this house who has.'

Attitude to outsiders (Aspinall/Arthur): 'What does he imagine I am - that I'd let one of my daughters marry at the bidding of a tinker?'