

Questions about Plot:

1. Read the first scene or the first few pages and then stop. What potential for conflict do you see here? What do you expect to happen in the rest of the play?
2. How is the play divided into acts, scenes, or episodes, if at all? What is the effect of this structure? Does the division of the play correspond, more or less, to the five stages of plot development - exposition, rising action, climax, resolution, conclusion?
3. Does the play show a relatively clear progression through the traditional stage of plot development, or does it seem to defy such conventions? If so, how, and what might the playwright achieve through these departures from tradition?
4. What is the inciting incident or destabilizing event? How and why does this event destabilize the initial situation? How would you describe the conflict that develops? To what extent is it external, internal or both?
5. What is the climax, or turning point? Why and how so? How is the conflict resolved? How and why might this resolution fulfill or defy your expectations?