LINDA

Key features · development · paired evidence



THE BIG IDEA

Linda's life reveals the effects of class and the twins' unequal opportunities beyond the brothers themselves. She has needs and choices that exceed a rivalry between men.

FOLLOW THE CHARACTER

1 Shares childhood play › **2** Chooses a relationship › **3** Bears adult pressures › **4** Seeks help beyond the home

PROTECTING MICKEY, ASSERTING HER OWN NEEDS

"leave him alone"

Linda, Act 2: defending teenage Mickey against the teacher

PAIRED WITH

"I need you"

Linda, Act 2: the post-prison argument about Mickey's tablets

METHOD → MEANING

The first imperative challenges authority on Mickey's behalf. The later first-person declaration insists that her own needs matter too. Her care continues, but marriage, parenthood and Mickey's illness make protection more difficult. Analyse the strain in their relationship without presenting stopping prescribed medication as a simple cure.

TRACE THE CHARACTER THROUGH THE DRAMA

Beyond the rivalry

She is a childhood companion and a person with desires and loyalties. Begin with her own speech and actions, rather than defining her only through the twins.

Care under pressure

Mickey's unemployment, imprisonment and illness affect the household. Notice the emotional and practical work Linda takes on.

Asking Edward for help

Institutional influence can obtain practical support that affection alone cannot supply. The developing affair complicates the help and intensifies the conflict.

PUSH THE ARGUMENT

Discuss the affair without reducing her to its cause or blaming her for the whole tragedy. Consider constrained choices, care and the men's actions.

COVER THE SHEET. CAN YOU EXPLAIN…?

How does Linda make the effects of unemployment visible inside a relationship?