**Men Should Weep**

**Possible Questions**

Role of women

Theme of love

Theme of community

John’s role within the family

Jenny’s growing maturity

Theme of poverty

Theme of violence

Character of Maggie

Character of Jenny

Character of Lily

Character of John

**Role of Women**

“I’ve never been feart of ma Mammy before” says Edie. This shows that Maggie is usually kind and nurturing to her children.

“Seems I’m no sooner in ma bed than I’ve tae rise” says Maggie. This shows that Maggie is always busy as a typical housewife with stereotypical roles as a woman from this time.

“Living in a slum and slaving after a useless man and his greeting weans” says Lily to Maggie. This shows that Lily does not believe in the old fashioned views of women and that no woman needs a man to keep them happy.

“You’ll let your hair grow tae the colour God meant it tae be” says John to Jenny. This shows that Jenny’s lifestyle is disapproved by her parents by drinking, changing her appearance and being seen with different men.

“You’re no the only pebble on ma beach” Isa to Alec. This shows that Isa has no respect for her husband, which would be the standard expectation of this time.

**Maggie is the only traditional female character.**

**Theme of Love**

“You leave John alane! He does his best for us” Maggie defends John when her sister Lily is criticising him, shows her love for him.

“And when did you last have a man’s arms roon ye?” shows that Maggie loves her sister and is concerned for her happiness as she is still a spinster.

“I ken you’ve done your best…I just wish there was something I could dae for ye” shows Lily comforting Maggie when she begins to sob. This shows the love she has for her sister as she wishes she could help her out of her tough situations.

“I love her, but she disnae love me. When I want tae kiss her she shoves me off”. This shows that Alec loves his wife Isa but she doesn’t feel the same way and makes this very clear.

“Twenty-five years married and I still love my husband. Is this a record?” shows Lily teasing her sister for defending her husband and saying she loves him.

**Maggie and Lily share a love between siblings, Maggie and John are in a loving marriage and Alec and Isa are in a toxic relationship.**

**Theme of Community**

“Your Alec’s street. The houses have collapsed”. This shows the neighbours rushing to inform Maggie that her son’s house was involved in an accident. Although they like to gossip, they also look out for one another.

“That’s a right, Lily. You’re welcome anytime” is the neighbours reply to Lily thanking them for taking care of Granny when no one was home. This shows that the neighbours always help each other out.

**John’s role Within the Family**

“Wheesht, wheesht, the both of you; wheesht. Listen. Listen tae me” is what he says to Edie and Ernest to calm them down, which he succeeds at as he is in control.

“Try. Try, As if I didnae try” shows John struggling to cope with the demands from the family as he barely makes enough income to provide for his wife and children.

“Yous women! Youv’e nae system!” shows that John is very critical to the roles of women in his family even though he doesn’t bring much to the table.

**Jenny’s Growing Maturity**

“Mammy, I’m sorry. We’ll sit down properly and talk” shows that Jenny matured at the end of the play compared to the beginning as she is now being reasonable and even apologising for her actions for hurting her family by leaving.

“There’s plenty for the flitting and the key money” shows that Jenny has grown up and wants to use her money to help her family get a suitable house.

**Theme of Poverty**

“No got a pair of knickers to her name” shows that Maggie and John are in so much poverty that they cannot afford underwear for their daughter.

“It’s a midden looking out on other middens. It’s got rats and bugs” says Jenny whilst discussing why her parents and siblings need to move house as their current one is very unsanitary.

“Disgracing me in front of the hale shop” shows Jenny’s embarrassment about her mother begging for old mouldy food at the shop she works at- cannot afford food.

“He saw me hame from the dancing, he’d take one look at the close and that’s the last I’d see of him” shows that Jenny has found it difficult to find a decent man due to the state of her house as she finds it so embarrassing.

**Theme of Violence**

“Serving dirty hulking brutes a men in a pub” is Maggie talking about Lily’s job. This paints men in the image of being large and threatening to women.

“You say Peter Robb tae me again and I’ll kill ye!” is Alec threatening to kill Isa if she mentions this man, let alone leave Alec for him.

“Crying hysterically, she belabours Ernest who tries to get away” shows that Ernest is trying to escape from Maggie as she is putting extreme effort into battering him.

**Character of Maggie**

“No in wages… I’m paid with love” shows that Maggie finds raising her children and caring for her family very fulfilling and satisfying and doesn’t need a wage. Shows she is nurturing.

“Collapses in a storm of weeping” shows that Maggie is under so much stress that she loses control of her anger and cannot stop herself from crying hysterically.

**Character of Jenny**

“It’s no ma job to keep your weans. It’s yours”. Although Jenny is being harsh here, she does have a valid point as she was expected to do many things just because she was an older sibling.

“When I was wee, you loved me, and I loved you. Why can we no get back” shows that Jenny has regrets about how she left home on an argument and wants to make amends with her father as they were so close when she was a child.

“When I leave this rotten pig-stye I’m no coming back”. This shows that Jenny is desperate to leave the poverty infested home that she lives in with her family.