

# A View From The Bridge



Key Events				
Act 1	Catherine reveals that she has been offered a job and Eddie expresses his disapproval; Eddie tells the story of Vinny Bolzano; Marco and Rodolpho arrive			
	Rodolpho talks about his life in Italy; Rodolpho sings for Catherine; Eddie becomes increasingly vociferous about his suspicious of Rodolpho			
	Mike and Louis joke to Eddie about Rodolpho's flamboyance; Eddie continues to restrict Catherine's freedom; Catherine finally admits that she has feelings for Rodolpho			
	Catherine complains to Beatrice that Eddie will not listen to her; Beatrice urges Catherine to change her behaviour around Eddie			
	Alfieri advises Eddie not to prevent the relationship between Catherine and Rodolpho; Eddie hits Rodolpho; Marco defeats Eddie in a test of strength			
Act 2	Rodolpho and Catherine find themselves alone in the apartment; Rodolpho angrily rejects the idea of moving to Italy with Catherine			
	Eddie drunkenly returns to the apartment; Eddie sees that Catherine and Rodolpho have been alone; Eddie kisses Rodolpho			
	Alfieri tells Eddie that he is powerless to stop the marriage between Rodolpho and Catherine; Beatrice reveals that Lipari has illegal immigrants living with him			
	Eddie calls the Immigration Bureau; Lipari's house is raided; Marco challenges Eddie; Marco kills Eddie			
Key Characters		Key Themes		Key Words
<b>Eddie</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An 'everyman' character</li> <li>Has conflicting feelings for Catherine</li> <li>Demands respect</li> </ul>	<b>Justice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alfieri represents the law</li> <li>Contrast between 'old world' and 'new world'</li> <li>Revenge is linked to justice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Miller</li> <li>Tragedy</li> <li>Fate</li> <li>Chorus</li> <li>Italy</li> <li>Sicily</li> <li>America</li> <li>Brooklyn</li> <li>Red Hook</li> <li>Longshoreman</li> <li>Dock</li> <li>Friendship</li> <li>Status</li> <li>Loyalty</li> <li>Masculinity</li> <li>Respect</li> </ul>
<b>Beatrice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Devoted to Eddie</li> <li>Feels emotionally and physically distant from him</li> <li>Supports Catherine and Rodolpho's relationship</li> </ul>	<b>Honour</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Honour is linked to silence</li> <li>Respect is important to Eddie and Marco</li> <li>Breaking a code of honour results in isolation</li> </ul>	
<b>Catherine</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beatrice niece</li> <li>Enters into a relationship with Rodolpho</li> <li>Defies Eddie</li> </ul>	<b>Love</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examples of romantic love and familial love</li> <li>Eddie's sexuality is ambiguous</li> <li>Eddie and Beatrice share a troubled relationship</li> </ul>	
<b>Rodolpho</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blonde-haired and handsome</li> <li>Humorous and flamboyant</li> <li>Ambitious</li> </ul>	<b>Dreams</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rodolpho believes in the 'American Dream'</li> <li>Rodolpho and Marco have different aspirations</li> <li>Eddie was content with his life as a longshoreman</li> </ul>	
<b>Marco</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physically strong</li> <li>Attempts to avoid conflict</li> <li>Kills Eddie</li> </ul>	<b>Struggle</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Catherine struggles for her independence</li> <li>Eddie and Marco engage in a physical struggle</li> <li>Eddie struggles with his conflicting emotions</li> </ul>	

### Context

*A View from the Bridge* was first performed in its present format in 1956, at a time when the United States was entering a period of great prosperity after the hardships of the Second World War. Many immigrants were arriving, having decided to leave the problems of war-torn Europe behind them. It was seen as a time when hard work and ambition could lead anybody with a strong enough desire to achieve the American Dream.

### Context

The play is set in the 1950s, and is based on an apparently true story told to Miller by a lawyer who worked with longshoremen. It echoes the format of a Greek tragedy, where the main protagonist is propelled helplessly towards his fate, and nothing can be done to alter it.

### Structure & Style:

- **One setting:** Eddie's apartment and street – claustrophobic, tense.
- **Alfieri as Chorus:** Like in Greek tragedy, commenting and guiding audience.
- **Dramatic irony:** Audience can often see Eddie's downfall before he does.
- **Symbols:**
  - **The bridge:** Links America and Italy, law and justice, past and future.
  - **Eddie's chair & space:** Show power struggles.
  - **Red Hook docks:** Harsh, working-class environment

### Plot Summary:

*A View from the Bridge* by Arthur Miller is a two-act play set by the docks of Red Hook, a working-class part of Brooklyn, New York. It is narrated by a lawyer, Alfieri, and revolves around the Carbone family – Eddie, his wife Beatrice and their niece Catherine. The family are first seen awaiting the arrival from Sicily of Beatrice's cousins Marco and Rodolpho. (Sicily is the island which looks like the football on the end of Italy's 'boot'). The cousins arrive late one night, and the Carbone family welcome them. Catherine and Rodolpho are attracted to each other, which annoys Eddie a lot. He finds more and more things to dislike about Rodolpho as the young couple grow closer over the following weeks. When they decide to get married, Eddie does a terrible thing – he reports the cousins as illegal immigrants. This makes his family and all the neighbours hate Eddie. Marco comes to get revenge on him, but Eddie produces a knife during the fight which Marco uses to stab him. He dies in Beatrice's arms.



### Key Quotations:

- Eddie** (about Catherine): "I don't like the looks they're giving you." – shows jealousy.
- Alfieri:** "Justice is very important here." – theme of law vs. justice.
- Eddie** (to Rodolpho): "I want my respect!" – masculinity, pride.
- Marco** (about Eddie): "That one! He killed my children!" – honour, revenge.
- Alfieri** (final words): "Most of the time we settle for half, and I like it better." – message about compromise vs. destruction.