

Listening Guide- Episode 1- Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*

“Meet the Author and His Artist Impact on Writing and Theater”

1. First of all there is a lot of flexibility with the number of \_\_\_\_\_ you have to have.
2. Even the basic idea of the fourth wall and what it means to \_\_\_\_\_ it is very clearly illustrated in this play.
3. Wilder really took this approach that there is magic and power in the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. By the time Thornton was nine years old, his family had moved to \_\_\_\_\_.
5. After he left Wisconsin and moved to Hong Kong, he attended a \_\_\_\_\_ school there.
6. He graduates from \_\_\_\_\_ in 1921.
7. Teddy \_\_\_\_\_ has become a prominent reform politician, and he's reshaping the role of government.
8. We had 100 years of staying home from 1815 to \_\_\_\_\_, and during Thornton Wilder's time period that's ending.
9. He spends a year as a resident in Rome; he's going to teach \_\_\_\_\_ in New Jersey.
10. In 1927 he's going to \_\_\_\_\_ his breakout novel titled *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*.
11. It seems wasn't for another ten that he actually \_\_\_\_\_ that incredible public success and that comes with the play *Our Town*.
12. This play is first performed in 1938, we've finished World War One; we're in the \_\_\_\_\_; Hitler is ransacking Europe.
13. “That's one of the troubles with the \_\_\_\_\_; they think all literature, all life, all commenced somewhere around 1900 when they begin.”
14. “Every person who has ever lived has lived an unbroken succession of unique occasions, yet the more one is aware of this individuality and \_\_\_\_\_, the more one becomes attentive to what these disparate moments have in common: the \_\_\_\_\_ patterns.
15. This play can only be thought of as \_\_\_\_\_ if you thoughtlessly watch this play.
16. You should never confuse \_\_\_\_\_ of form with simplicity of idea.
17. He doesn't have a lot of personal connections; Thornton Wilder \_\_\_\_\_ even had a life partner really.

18. So when you are taken out of time and \_\_\_\_\_, of your particular place, and set in Grover's Corner, this little town that he made up, you get to think about that.
19. When you strip life down, when you really look at it from the outside, what you're going to find is that it's \_\_\_\_\_; it's infinitely meaningful.
20. We see a little boy playing with a \_\_\_\_\_, and the stage manager tells you he's going to die.
21. The first act is called "Daily Life", but when you see the first time, you have no \_\_\_\_\_ what you're supposed to be noticing.
22. Emily is every girl who ever lived worrying if she's pretty enough: \_\_\_\_\_ is the clueless jock with the good heart.
23. The things on the \_\_\_\_\_ are supposed to be reflective of what you see in your everyday life.
24. A guy comes out and starts talking to us like we just showed up to the empty \_\_\_\_\_, and he calls us things like "friends" and "folks".
25. Neighbors all know each other; people know the \_\_\_\_\_ and the grandparents of everyone in the community.
26. As much as it is Americana; it's \_\_\_\_\_ because it's about community and family and faith; it's just one version of it.
27. It's pantomime; it's kind of a sketch. The \_\_\_\_\_ is there.
28. There are \_\_\_\_\_ planted in seats all over the theater calling out questions.
29. We're reminded that everything here on Earth is \_\_\_\_\_, but embedded in it is something larger that lasts a long time like geology.
30. He's going to juxtapose these \_\_\_\_\_ questions with just a few incidents in the daily lives of two families.
31. "I guess we're all hunting like everybody else for a way where the diligent and sensible and can rise to the \_\_\_\_\_ and the lazy and quarrelsome can sink to the \_\_\_\_\_, but it ain't easy to find."
32. Don't forget they're singing this song, which actually they sing it \_\_\_\_\_ times in the play, "Bless be the Tie that Binds."
33. But I think it means: think \_\_\_\_\_; look smaller but think bigger.