

Listening Guide- Our Town Episode #2

“The Deceptive Depth of Meaning in Simplicity”

1. When you look at it at first pass, it's easy to think he's a _____ guy glamorizing small town life.
2. Wilder wrote extensively about what a trip to the _____ should entail.
3. Also, in a play, the action basically has to happen in a very few _____.
4. Reading is a private action; it's a _____ experience.
5. Plays are communal; we _____ them as a group; we experience them together.
6. Carl Jung argued that there are archetypes, images, _____ and ideas that are basically hardwired into our brains.
7. “The theater is an art addressed to a group mind; it presupposes a _____ and requires a throng.”
8. When you go to a theater, a concert, even a lecture, this is not a _____ experience; you are not an audience of one.
9. Even after he was famous and rich and successful and all that, if someone asked him what he did for a living, he would say he was a _____.
10. “_____ could play the blind Homer, a Greek chorus or the entire siege of Troy.”
11. Try not to think of it as a play at all, but as a _____, a series of musings about the universe.
12. The _____ is presenting a lecture series on the nature of life, not even life in Grover's Corner, life on planet Earth.
13. “The first act shows a day in our town, the day is May 7, _____.”
14. The play opens and 5:45, but it ends three acts later at _____.
15. The moms are picking beans and planting _____; that's seasonal-looking.
16. The doctor's helping twins come into the world; his kids are _____; the parents are middle-agers.
17. There are things we share in _____ with each other across cultures, even if the individual details of our lives are very different from the lives of these other people.

18. Howie Newson is the _____, and look at his role in the play. It's kind of interesting; he's featured in every act.
19. He's building into the play this idea of a cycle of life: _____, growth, death, life, rebirth, the passing of time.
20. The moon is a huge archetype, and interestingly enough, think about what it represents. Moons represent _____ and cycles, just like in science.
21. Act 2 starts with all these _____ indicators like we talked about in Act 1.
22. "Most everybody in the world climbs into their graves _____."
23. It's a pretty special moment to stand there in the back of the church with this child that you brought home from the _____ years earlier.
24. We're going to see that it's not the _____ that's important at all; it's this emotional journey of the experience of the wedding.
25. By this point in the play it's not even awkward that the stage manager is running a soda shop, and we don't even notice anymore that it's all _____.
26. If you're watching it you'll see there's not a set; there's not a soda shop; there's not a _____, just people walking around.
27. "Like Mrs. Gibbs said a few minutes ago, people were made to live two-by-two. This is a good _____."
28. "Every child born into the world is Nature's attempt to make a _____ human being."
29. He obviously thinks the _____ of a wedding are far more interesting than anything else going on."
30. He now looks at the audience with a smile that removes any sense of cynicism from the next line, "Once in a thousand times it's _____."
31. The last line of the second act is given to Mrs. Sommes, and she says, "The important thing is to be _____."
32. Weddings are about the sense of _____; a hope of happiness.