

Harrington
21M.604 Fall 2005
Week 3, Assignment

Objects

Why are objects important?

Because we invest them with meaning, and a single object can have multiple meanings as well as mean different things to different characters

For example:

A good luck charm.

A letter.

A book.

A TV remote control.

A key.

An article of clothing.

A coffee mug.

A picture.

Objects can carry both meaning and memory.

They can be almost magical – or a character believes the object is magical.

Objects can be stand-ins for a missing person.

Negotiating over objects is always interesting because it gives us an opportunity to learn about characters. Important information and emotion can be revealed in a compelling way. Think of the boyfriend as an object in our conflict/ no conflict improvisation.

Objects can be dangerous.

They can change things.

They can be changed or they can transform in some way.

A bottle, when broken, becomes a weapon.

A tennis racket can stand in as a spaghetti strainer. (The Odd Couple)

Objects can be stolen, lost, bartered, given away, valued, devalued, destroyed, damaged, used in a new way.

Assignment:

Choose an object and write a 10 page scene or play with 2 characters in which they negotiate over that object. Stay in the present and stay focused on the object and the negotiation. We should learn a great deal about your characters through the way they value the object and negotiate over the object.

Add interest to the scene by having the object transform in some way. You can modify the object, destroy it, or use it in a new and unique way.

Finally, choose an interesting setting for your scene, which might even add something to the scene or create a challenge for your characters.