***Waiting for Godot***

By Samuel Beckett, 1952

*Answer the following questions in the light of your reading of Beckett’s play*.

**I/ Historical Context:**

1. ***Waiting for Godot*** belongs to the **Theatre of the Absurd** type of drama. What do you know about this type?
2. What strikes you the most about the play? What do you think makes it different from traditional drama?
3. What are the most prominent features of **Absurdist** theatre?
4. The following are some characteristics of Realistic drama. Clarify how, as an **Absurdist** play,***WFG*** breaks away from the tradition.

* Characters (***protagonists*** included) are believable, everyday types
* Costumes are authentic
* Stage settings (locations) and props are often indoors and believable
* The ‘box set’ is normally used for realistic dramas on stage, consisting of three walls and an invisible ‘fourth wall’ facing the audience
* Settings for realistic plays are often bland (deliberately ordinary)
* Dialogue is not heightened for effect, but that of everyday speech
* The drama is typically psychologically driven, where the plot is secondary and primary focus is placed on the interior lives of characters, their motives, the reactions of others etc.
* Realistic plays often see the protagonist rise up against the odds to assert him/herself against an injustice of some kind

1. Realistic dramas are said to have quickly gained popularity because the everyday person in the audience could identify with the situations and characters on stage. What about ***WFG***?How was it first received by the public?
2. Compare ***WFG*** to Miller’s *The Crucible*. Which one is more appealing, according to you? Why?
3. What do you think are the aspects of the play that mostly reflect

Beckett’s **Modernist/Absurdist** vision of life?

**Answers**

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