

Sartre: No Exit Discussion Questions/Topics

- what would you imagine hell to be like?
- is Sartre's depiction of hell really hellish?....is it all that bad?
- could you handle this sort of hell?
- what are examples from our lives that mirror the hell in this story?
- are the people really damned?
 - what does "damned" imply?
- how are the following philosophical topics represented in the play?
 - time
 - death
 - existence
 - freedom
 - individuality
- what is existentialism?
 - how are its elements represented in the play?
- what is the role of sight/vision/eyes?
- who is/are the torturer(s)?
- what is the role of self-consciousness?
- try to make sense of something Sartre wrote elsewhere: "The other is the indispensable mediator between myself and me."
- try to make sense of Estelle saying, "When I can't see myself I begin to wonder if I really and truly exist."
- what is the role of shame?
- do you think we naturally disgust one another?
- what is left of the characters' in their former lives?
- What do you make of this statement on p.43?
 - Inez: One always dies too soon—or too late. And yet one's whole life is complete at that moment, with a line drawn neatly under it, ready for the summing up. You are—your life, and nothing else.