



BORN YESTERDAY

Discussion/Essay Questions

1. How are Harry Brock's business (junkyards, selling scrap metal) significant?
2. Who is responsible for Billie Dawn's abuse?
3. Why have male writers preserved the "dumb blond" character for so long?
4. Does Billie fake being dumb or is she playing into how men want her to act?
5. Do you think Harry loves Billie?
6. Does Paul Verrall really love Billie?
7. What role do women occupy in this play?
8. Do you think politicians are more or less corrupt than they were in 1946?
9. Why is Ed Devery (Harry's lawyer) so miserable?
10. Everyone underestimates Billie. Why is that?
11. The play takes place in a hotel suite. How do people behave differently in hotels than at home?
12. Do you trust Paul?
13. Are characters in this play impressed or disturbed by Harry's aggressive behavior?
14. This play is considered a satire. Is it relevant to leaders and circumstances today?
15. Harry is abusive to everyone around him, including his girlfriend, brother and lawyer. Why do they stick around?
16. This play portrays politicians as corrupt. Are there politicians you admire and trust?
17. Billie Dawn has an awakening in this play. Have you ever had that experience?
18. Ed says, "A little learning is a dangerous thing." How is education scary to those in power?
19. Billie is estranged from her dad. Why do you think she says she'll go see him at the end of the play?
20. How does it make you feel when Harry tells Billie she's dumb?