

# Bill Naughton's Play Spring and Port Wine

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Bill Naughton's Play "Spring and Port Wine"

How does the playwright, Bill Naughton, prepare the audience for the first appearance for Rafe on the stage? What are the audience expected to think about him? 07817966841 224 1970

In this coursework I will be focusing on a play called "Spring and Port Wine". It was first performed in 1965 and is set about forty years ago. I am going to comment on how social and historical things have changed since then and how we as an audience are expected to think of the character called Rafe before his first entry in [the play](#).

At the start of the play in [the stage](#) directions we get a lot of information about what Rafe is like. We find out that he looks after his family by giving them a "comfortable, prosperous, working class home". This shows that he cares about his family. We also find out that he likes the house "spick and span" because in the stage directions we see that "everything is polished and well cared for". This gives us the idea of Rafe as being a perfectionist, and in those days the neighbours used to notice and judge people by looking at how clean their house was. We see that there is "nothing cheap or vulgar" in the house which shows that he can meet the expenses of the family and they are comfortably off. We learn that Rafe is certainly the man of the house because when setting the table, Daisy is giving extra attention to Rafe's place at the head table. The stage directions also show us that money is a theme throughout the play.

The play opens with Daisy and Florence trying to get the housekeeping account balanced. Right from the beginning we learn that Rafe is an intelligent man, we know this because Daisy says to Florence "You've got your fathers...

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... build a picture of Rafe in our

own mind. We also find out that money is an important theme all the way through the play. All this facilitate us to get our own notion of Rafe's characteristics.

After reading the opening of the play we understand that the play is really about tensions in a family caused by a generation gap, we find out that Rafe is a very complicated person; we see he controls his family very well. We learn this by the manner in which he treats his wife over housekeeping money and would not go down well today. However his intentions are always laudable in that in that everything was done for the sake of his family. The playwright [Bill Naughton](#) has cleverly used different characters to describe him very well; the setting of the play was set in a way that the audience would have a good image of what Rafe is like before he enters the stage.

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