

Rabbit Hole

Author	David Lindsay-Abaire
Published by	Theatre Communications Group, New York
Published in	2006
Price	€11.99
Genre	Kitchen-sink drama
Length	157 pages
Summary	<p>The play is set in the present. A couple in their thirties have lost their four year old son in a car accident, the driver of that car being a seventeen year old high school student. Supported by close family, they try to cope and go on with their lives. However, their very different ways of grieving lead to conflict, inevitably.</p> <p>The play premiered in 2006, has been amongst others staged on Broadway and has received the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. It has been well received, reviews are mostly positive.</p>
Structure	<p>2 acts, 7 scenes.</p> <p>The Freytag model can be applied to <i>Rabbit Hole</i>, the climax being an incident when Howie throws Jason out of his house.</p> <p><i>Rabbit Hole</i> is a modern kitchen-sink drama; the space is limited to the house of the Corbetts. It is a closed time drama.</p> <p>Theatrical Space, actors and audiences: The action is limited to the stage only, a lot of stage props are in use and actors wear modern clothes. The audience is not involved, they remain silent observers.</p>
Characters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Becca and Howie Corbett, the couple • Nat, Becca's mother • Izzy, Becca's sister • Jason, the driver of the car that hit Danny, their son
Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Death • Family • Coping with tragic events
Available Media	A movie adaptation is available.

Helpful Secondary Literature	Asmuth, Bernhard. Einführung in die Dramenanalyse. Stuttgart: Metzler, 1997. Brantley, Ben. "Mourning a Child in a Silence That's Unbearably Loud." NYT Reviews, Feb 3, 2006.
Language	The play is written in modern day American English and therefore provides us with great examples of the natural use of the English language. It is easy to read.
Suitable Age	> 15
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brainstorming: What could the title <i>Rabbit Hole</i> mean? • Analysis of the stage directions in direct comparison with another play • Screening of the movie adaption of the play and a following discussion about differences and similarities, choice of actors etc. • Comedy or tragedy? Make a table. • Creative writing: Diary entry e.g. of Jason before showing up at the Corbetts'. • Role playing: Acting out scenes, freeze frames, hot chairs.
Teachability Pros	The play is easily accessible and topically interesting for students.
Teachability Cons	Difficult topic: death of a family member.
Overall Evaluation	Definitely teachable, provides a great basis for serious and interesting discussion, wide range of activities possible.