

Relationships between the characters form a central theme in "A View from the Bridge." How does Arthur Miller demonstrate this in the play.

How would you direct this?

Next Paragraph

Eddie and Beatrice continue to differ over Rodolfo. p. 23

B: Well, he's a kid, he doesn't know how to behave himself yet.

E: And with that wacky hair, he's like a chorus girl or sump'in.

Beatrice also takes Catherine's side. p. 29 for quotes.

We learn that the sexual relationship between B & E has stopped. p. 24 for quotes.

E. won't even discuss it.

Next Paragraph

p. 50-51 E & B arguing about Beatrice moving Marco and Rodolfo upstairs.

Continuing to argue over sexual problems.

p. 52 - B disagrees with E again over Catherine.

Eventually B goes to the wedding leaving Eddie. Comment on Eddie's death, p. 64.

Next Paragraph

The second relationship I am going to explore is the one between Eddie and Catherine. When we first see them, Catherine is relaxed in Eddie's presence.

P.S. But Eddie is worried about the length of her shirt! Way she walks, p. 6.

Their relationship seems, on the surface, to be one between father figure and daughter.

p. 9-11 for quotes. The tension grows in the relationship as Eddie hears about Catherine's new job.

Next Paragraph

Eddie is reluctant to let Catherine go - even to work. He is very protective of her. Eventually he allows her to take the job. Gives her advice, p. 11 - "I only ask you one thing - don't trust nobody." Calls her 'Madonna'. Worships her. Religious overtones.

Next Paragraph

Tensions increase with the arrival of Marco and Rodolfo. Eddie becomes jealous of Catherine's increasing interest in Rodolfo. Examine the scene p. 26-29 (top). Catherine comes home having enjoyed an evening with Rodolfo. Eddie warns her that he's only after a passport. Catherine resents this and refuses to believe Eddie. Eddie is using this to come between them. [Why do you think he wants to do that?]

Next Paragraph

Examine the scene p. 46-48 when Eddie sees Catherine and Rodolfo coming out of a bedroom in the apartment. How would you direct this?

What does it say now about the relationship between Catherine and Eddie?

p. 53 - Catherine tells Eddie she's going to marry Rodolfo. He tries to reason with her. [Too young, first guy she's met, etc.]

Next Paragraph

The third and final relationship which I am going to examine is the one between Catherine and Beatrice.

Beatrice loves Eddie and wants to be loyal to him.

BUT!

She also understands that Catherine is growing up and that Eddie is wrong to be so protective of her. Beatrice becomes more certain that Eddie is heading for disaster. Tries to reason with him. Get him to see that he's being selfish, obstinate and unfair.

Catherine doesn't try to affect Eddie. Catherine is confused and innocent throughout the play.

Next Paragraph

Is Beatrice jealous of Catherine? Your opinion. Why Beatrice is aware of Eddie's sexual desire for Catherine but she doesn't blame Catherine. Tries to encourage her to move on with her life by getting a new job and going out with Rodolfo.

Catherine doesn't encourage Eddie purposely. She is not calculating or deceptive. Catherine trusts Beatrice and her advice. p. 29-30-31 what does this section tell us about Catherine and Beatrice?

Beatrice is happy for Catherine when she announces her engagement.

Beatrice wants to attend the wedding.

Conclusion

Most of this play deals with relationships and I have looked at three major examples.