



LYRICS AND PLOT

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- ✓ **PRE- AND POST-VIEWING LESSON/ACTIVITIES**
- ✓ **TYPE: POINTS TO PONDER, DISCUSS OR WRITE ABOUT**
- ✓ **SUITABILITY: GRADE 10-12**

From PLO's for English 11:

Strategies (Reading and Viewing)

Part 1:

Pre-viewing: Select, adapt, and apply a range of strategies to anticipate content and construct meaning, including

- making logical, detailed predictions
- generating guiding or speculative questions

Post-viewing: Select, adapt, and apply a range of strategies to construct, monitor, and confirm meaning, including

- comparing and refining predictions, questions, images, and connections
- making inferences and drawing conclusions

Part 2:

Pre-viewing:

Sir Noël Coward wrote over 400 songs, several of which have found new life in this adaptation of a film adapted from a one-act play, neither of which was a "musical". The three songs could be considered "themes" for the three romances of the play.

Have students read the lyrics and do the following:

1. Predict the outcome of each romance, based on the song lyrics.
2. Choose one song and write about what clues in the lyrics led to your prediction.

Please note:

Part 1: Story, Background, Creators, Characters and Glossary is available for downloading at
VANCOUVERPLAYHOUSE.COM

Send us feedback and questions regarding our Play Guides

Request a copy of a script (for educational purposes)

Contact: Stasa Andric at **604 637 3094** / sandric@vancouverplayhouse.com

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SEE YOU AT THE PLAYHOUSE!

ALL PERFORMANCES AT HAMILTON & DUNSMUIR

GO SLOW, JOHNNY

Go slow, Johnny,
Maybe she'll come to her senses
If you'll give her a chance.
People's feelings are sensitive
plants,
Try not to trample the soil and spoil
romance.

Go slow, Johnny,
No sense in rushing your fences,
Till you know that you know
Your stars are bright for you,
Right for you,
Mark their courses,
Hold your horses,
Speak low, Johnny,
Tip toe, Johnny,
Go slow, Johnny,
Go slow.

Go slow, Johnny,
Slow goes it,
Wait a bit, Johnny,
There's no need to stampede.
Don't forget if you wish to succeed
One truth had better be faced,
More Haste less Speed.
Watch those road signs,
They'll indicate a bit, Johnny,
Which direction to go,
Rely on time and tact,
Face the fact
You're no Brando*,
Rallentando**,
Speak low, Johnny,
Tip toe, Johnny,
Go slow, Johnny,
Go slow,
Go slow, Johnny,
Go slow!

MAD ABOUT THE BOY

Mad about the boy,
It's pretty funny but I'm mad about
the boy.
He has a gay appeal
That makes me feel
There's maybe something sad about
the boy.

Walking down the street,
His eyes look out at me from people
that I meet,
I can't believe it's true
But when I'm blue
In some strange way I'm glad about
the boy.

I'm hardly sentimental,
Love isn't so sublime,
I have to pay my rental
And I can't afford to waste much
time,
How I should enjoy
To let him treat me like a plaything
or a toy
I'd give my all to him
And crawl to him
So help me God, I'm mad about the
boy

***Brando** Marlon Brando became famous after his performance in the 1951 film version of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Coward wrote "Go Slow Johnny" in 1961. Its presence in *Brief Encounter* is an anachronism.

****rallentando** A directive to perform a certain passage of a composition with a gradual slowing of the tempo.

NO GOOD AT LOVE

I am no good at love
My heart should be wise and free
I kill the unfortunate golden goose
Whoever it may be
With over-articulate tenderness
And too much intensity
I am no good at love

When my easy heart I yield
Wild words come tumbling from my
mouth
Which should have stayed concealed;
And my jealousy turns a bed of bliss
Into a battlefield
I am no good at love

I am no good at love
I betray it with little sins
For I feel the misery of the end
In the moment that it begins
And the bitterness of the last good-
bye
Is the bitterness that wins
I am no good at love