

Mama's Plant

The most overt allegory in the play is mama's plant. Mama's plant is an allegory of mankind's perseverance through the most severe of circumstances.

In her first appearance onstage, she moves directly toward the plant to take care of it. She confesses that the plant never gets enough light or water, but she takes pride in how it nevertheless flourishes in its conditions. "(She crosses through the room, goes to the window, opens it, and brings in a little feeble plant growing doggedly in a small pot on the window sill. She feels the dirt and put is back out.)" The plant's living conditions are far from ideal and are at best dismal. The plant suffers from a lack of sunlight and water, but it continues to live despite the odds against it. The Young family lives in these same conditions. Even though they live in a small apartment and their family is falling apart they continue to survive. This is the same for mankind. Man has gone through and will continue to go through dismal and bleak times but mankind has always found a way to persevere no matter his circumstances.

The plant continues to live on despite that everyone else in the family including mama thinks that the plant won't survive. "Lord, if this little old plant don't get more sun than its been getting it ain't never going to see spring again. The same applies to man. People who look in at a poor family who has no money and can barely afford to eat meager meals think that there is no way for them to survive. Yet, that family will find a way to survive no matter the odds against them. The plant's persistence and dedication to continue on fosters mankind's unrelenting will to survive.

"(...Mama stands, at last alone in the living room, her plant on the table before her as the lights start to come down. She looks around at all the walls and ceiling and suddenly despite her self, while the children call below, a great heaving thing rises in her and she puts her fist to her

Derick Hess

mouth, takes a final desperate look, pulls her coat about her, pats her hat and goes out. The lights dim down. The doors opens and she comes back in, grabs her plant, and goes out for the last time.)” The plant persevered through the hard times in its life just as the family did. It never gave up or stopped living because of the hardships placed before it. The Young family was the same just as mankind is. For surviving the hardships the plant now has the chance to grow large and green and have all the sunlight and water it needs. It will be able to grow. Mama and her family have a house too where they can finally be happy and grow as people. Mankinds for persevering through the severest of circumstances gets the reward of being able to live, grow and prosper.