

Denise in Office 208 Hodge Analysis

I. Given Circumstances

A. Environmental Facts

1. Geographical location: Office building, metropolitan area, “What some might call a stereotypical office. There are three separate desks and papers of all colors strewn about in complete disorganization. There are a few potted plants but they are wilting and clearly underwatered. There are absolutely no chairs to speak of.” (pg1)
2. Date: Present Day, middle of the work day (Sam is busy and only has a few minutes, but has had a meeting with the COO before coming to Denise’s office) (pg1 and pg9), spring or fall (Denise grabs a coat and hat at the end but Sam is not wearing one, so can’t be winter or summer)(pg1 and pg18)
3. Economic Environment: Upper-middle class
4. Political Environment: Business hierarchy, Religious hierarchy where God created everything
5. Social Environment: Denise created the universe but no longer has time for creating. No one has ever visited her before (pg7 and pg10). Sam is a mid level employee for Western Horizon Medical (pg9). Sam believes Denise to be his superior, the creator of the company, who he looks up to.
6. Religious Environment: Monotheism, God exists but is not clairvoyant and does not control human’s destinies, God has human characteristics including human faults. Sam is spiritual but not religious. (pg10)

B. Previous Action

- It took Sam a long time to find the office, the building is like a maze
- Denise has been doing her work nonstop since she started
- “Denise” was notified weeks ago about Sam’s arrival
- Sam was told this meeting would not be long, he only has a few minutes
- Denise has weekly 15 minute breaks
- Denise used to do a lot of writing (creating)
- Denise created the universe and life itself
- Sam has not been living his “best life”
- The company Sam works for has become one of the most influential in the world
- The COO of the company (“Denise’s” son) has been preparing Sam for the promotion

- Humanity came up with the idea to name Denise “God”
- Sam has worked incredibly hard for this promotion
- Sam has dreamed of having a job that would offer him stability and the opportunity to help people
- Denise got carried away eons ago
- Denise started receiving prayers in the form of letters
- Denise has been alone this whole time
- Denise has been organizing the prayers and trying to figure out how to answer them
- Denise has visited the world and seen some of it

C. Polar Attitudes

Denise:

1. How do I feel about my world?
Denise is overwhelmed by her world and her lack of control over it. She has created everything and yet it doesn't feel like hers. She spends all her time trying to figure out how to help the world she has created.
2. How do I feel about my relationships?
She has never had anyone come and visit her. She is lonely but too busy to notice it. She wants to help the people she has created but does not know how.
3. How do I feel about myself?
She is not sure that she had any right to create in the first place. She feels irrelevant. She no longer believes in her own creations or her ability to create or help at all.
4. How do I feel about my prospects?
At the beginning of the play she does not believe anything will ever change for her. She will forever be organizing and attempting to answer the prayers of her creations. She can not or will not stop because than everything she made will fall apart and then there would be no point to having created at all. By the end of the play she is very optimistic about her chance to explore her world and learn more about her creations, perhaps being able to come back to her job someday and be able to do it well.

Sam:

1. How do I feel about my world?
Sam is optimistic and excited about the company he works for and the environment of helping people that he is a part

of. He is disgusted by Denise's organization of her office as well as confused.

2. How do I feel about my relationships?

Sam is a people person who has been successful at networking within his company and working his way up the corporate ladder. He is close with the COO and admires "Denise" as a person he aspires to be like. He is respectful of Denise at first, but becomes aggravated by her and eventually sorry for her.

3. How do I feel about myself?

He believes that he is the kind of person that would be good at helping others. He is confident in his skills as a worker and his potential for growth. In the end he feels comfortable taking over Denise's job with only a little persuasion.

4. How do I feel about my prospects?

Sam believes that the promotion he is getting a signature for is a done deal. He has been dreaming of and working towards this promotion his whole career. He sees his future to be filled with saving lives and starting his own family. At the end of the play he believes this new job as "God" will provide him with the same opportunities only on a greater scale.

II. Dialogue

- A. Choice of words: Denise does not think before she speaks, can be brash with her language. Sam attempts to be professional with his word choice
- B. Choice of phrases and sentence structure: Denise goes with the flow in that the subject can change quickly for her. Sam is specific and focused.
- C. Choice of images: Denise is vague and talks about big picture more than specifics. Sam is very specific and detailed
- D. Choice of peculiar characteristic: Denise swears whereas Sam does not (his strongest insult to Denise is that she is a "tree killer")
- E. Sound of the dialogue: realistic speech patterns
- F. Structure of lines and speeches: an equal back and forth, with both characters going into monologues describing their circumstances

III. Dramatic Action

- Written In Script

IV. Characters

A. Desire

1. Denise: Find inner peace
2. Sam: Build success through helping others

B. Will

1. Denise: To look after her creations
2. Sam: To improve people's lives

C. Moral Stance

1. Denise: Everyone is in control of their own fates
2. Sam: If you work hard enough you will get what you want

D. Decorum

1. Denise: Disheveled
2. Sam: Polished

E. Summary Adjectives

1. Denise: Frantic, Obsessive, Nonchalant, Caring
2. Sam: Overachieving, Focused, Determined, Optimistic

F. Initial Character-mood-intensity at the scene opening expressed by:

1. Heartbeat
 - a) Denise: Fast from being overwhelmed
 - b) Sam: Accelerated due to nerves
2. Perspiration
 - a) Denise: Slightly sweaty from running around
 - b) Sam: Perhaps a little sweaty due to nerves
3. Stomach condition
 - a) Denise: Knotted from stress
 - b) Sam: uneasy from nerves
4. Muscle tension
 - a) Denise: Tense, especially where stress is held (shoulders)
 - b) Sam: Slightly tense due to nerves
5. Breathing
 - a) Denise: Heavily from running around
 - b) Sam: Deep calming breaths

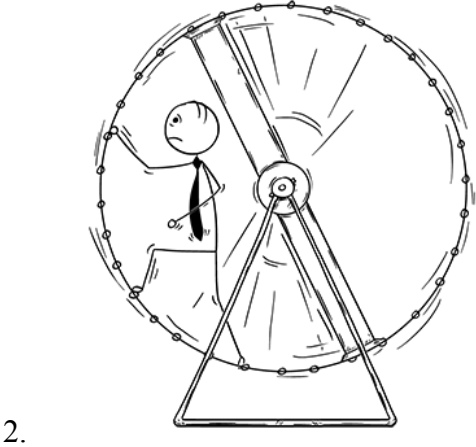
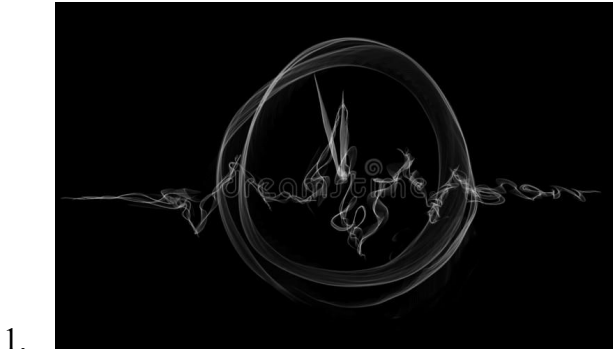
V. Ideas

- A. Meaning of the Title: Denise in Office 208, which sounds like an average person, is God. This play suggests that God is no one special and is just as helpless as any human person might be.
- B. Philosophical statements in the play: God is flawed just as humans are. Faith is a human invention. God has no more right to creating or watching over us than anyone else.
- C. Implications of the action: There is no such thing as “fate” because God cannot answer prayers or influence anything once it has been created.
- D. Purpose of each scene: Each scene build in the frustration and realization that God has no real power or special abilities. Unit 1: Set the tone. Unit 2: Introduce us to Sam and Denise. Unit 3: Show Denise’s human side. Unit 4: Backstory. Unit 5: Show that Sam has the wrong Denise. Unit 6: Sam loses everything. Unit 7: Proof that Denise is God. Unit 8: Have Sam swap places with Denise. Unit 9: the new normal, much the same as the old normal (nothing changes).

VI. Moods

- A. For each unit, include adjectives for each of the senses
 - 1. Messy, Monotonous, Stale, Smoke
 - 2. Chaotic, Tension
 - 3. Still, Confused, Relaxed
 - 4. Building, Intrigued
 - 5. Disappointment
 - 6. Panic, despair, anger
 - 7. Shock, Cloudy, Disbelief
 - 8. Joy, Feverish, Frantic
 - 9. Empty, Stale, Still

B. Mood images for each unit

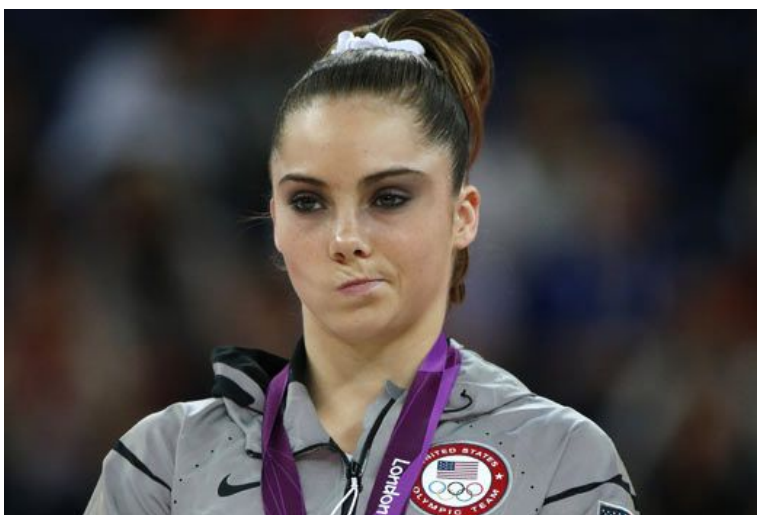


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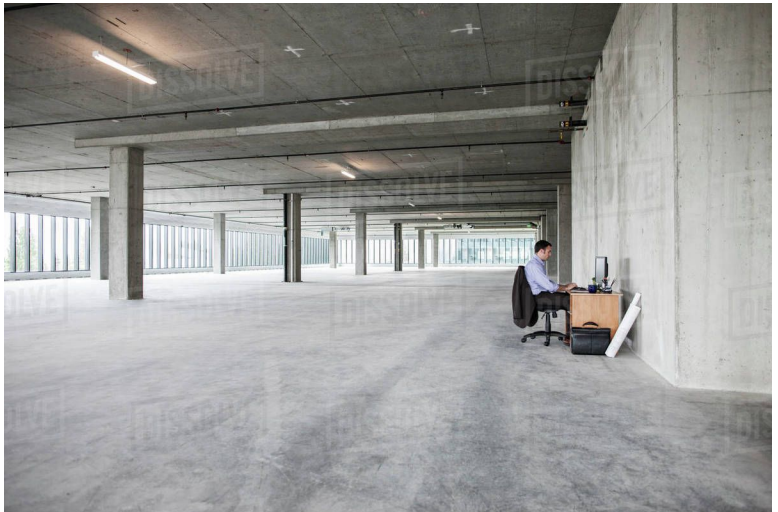
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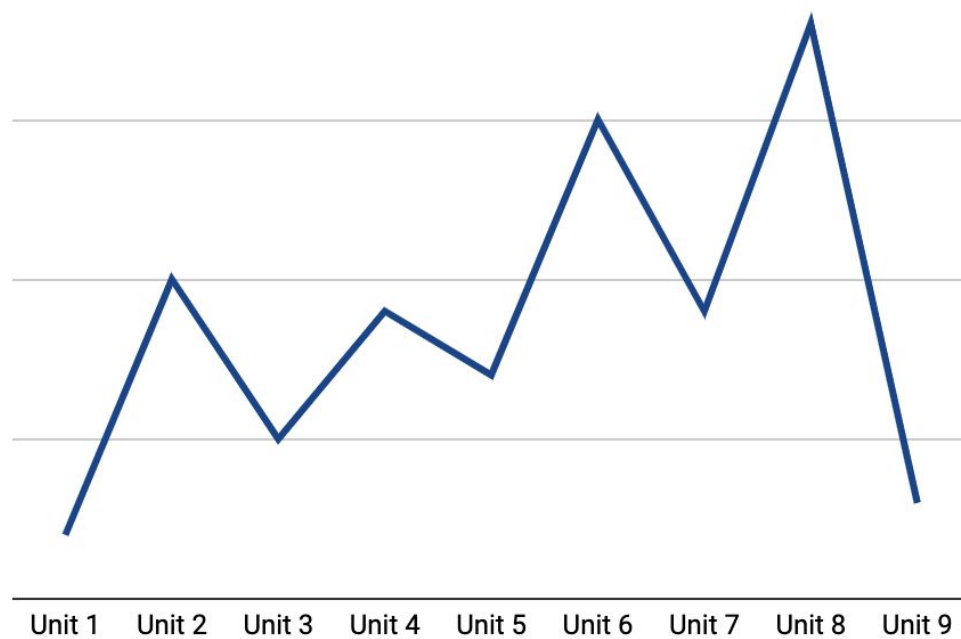


8.



9.

VII. Tempo



VIII. Tone

Capture the essence of the play as a whole: Whirlwind, bizarre, absurd