

Group Discussion of Wilder's LCD, PCH, HJTC

Play _____ Group Members _____

Procedure: One of you volunteer to be spokesperson and note taker. Try to find one quote for each question. If you don't have the pages with you, just summarize or paraphrase as best you can. Spokesperson: Write your group's comments on each question below (can use back if necessary). Turn in this sheet at end of class.

THEATRE

1) What is the theatrical style of the play? Realism(or naturalism)/Representational? (pretends to be reality, "fourth wall") Nonrealism/Presentational? (acknowledges its artifice, addresses the audience, metatheatre) A combination? Why do you think Wilder chose this style? How does the theatre serve the drama?

2) Compare/Contrast the theatrical style of your play to the other plays by Wilder we have read: *The Skin of Our Teeth*, *Our Town*, the other two plays for tonight's class. Which play do you think best makes use of this style?

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DRAMA

1) What is the action or story of this play? (Who is trying to do what where and when?) Although there is not a single unifying action (or plot, many would say), there is nevertheless conflict. Give a couple examples of conflict. What seems to be the point or focus or theme(s) or issue(s) of this action or conflict?

2) If you had to classify this play as comedy (optimistic, affirmative worldview or tone) or tragedy (pessimistic, lamenting worldview or tone), which is it closer to and why? If neither or both, cite an example where the play is closer to comedy and another example where it is closer to tragedy.