

Reading

1 Read the text, then choose the correct option to describe it.

- 1 A scene from a play
- 2 A review of a play
- 3 A speech from a play

The play *Memories of the Past* was written and first produced in 2015. Falling within the drama genre, it is Albert Johnson's second production. I attended the opening night of the play in Sydney, Australia in the summer of 2015. The play explored the sadness that comes with growing old and losing one's memory. It made me think about the kindness we should show to older generations.



It focused upon three main characters – a couple and their life-long friend – struggling with old age and dealing with misunderstandings between themselves and their families. Lots of details were given about their lives, which gave the characters depth. The choice of actors – a group of older actors who have been good friends most of their lives – was inspired. The strength of their relationships could easily be seen right from the first act. The actors seemed very comfortable with each other and with being on the stage, which made it a more enjoyable experience for the audience.

The stage was set up in a very interesting way. The lights were dimmed throughout most of the play and the simple backdrop helped the transition between the present and the past in different acts. In my opinion, the choice of dimmed lighting represented the loneliness often felt by older people, and when they moved to scenes from their young days in the past, the light were suddenly bright again. Little furniture was used and was placed at the corners of the stage which meant that the audience's attention was focused on the actors rather than the stage.

Overall, I would say that this was a well-written and excellently produced example of performing arts. I left the theatre still thinking about the characters and relating everything to my own life and the relationships I have with the older generation of my family. I think it'll be very influential in shifting peoples' thinking about the time they have left with their older friends and family. A lot of reviews argued that this could have been easily transformed into an opera or a tragedy, but I think it is perfect just the way it is.



Drag and drop the right answers

2 Read the questions, then read the text again and complete the table.

1. The date the play was first produced	
2. The genre of the play	
3. The general topic of the play	
4. The main characters	
5. The stage set-up	
6. The writer's feelings/thoughts after leaving the theatre	

drama

an older couple and their life-long friend

the sadness that older people feel when they grow old and lose

2015

dimmed lights, simple background, not a lot of furniture

thinking about the characters and making links with his own life