

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

*Brighton Beach Memoirs* Study Guide: Act 2

Mrs. Howard

*Brighton Beach Memoirs* by Neil Simon  
Act Two

1. What happens to Jack at the opening of Act 2?
2. What happened to Stanley's salary?
3. Why can't he use the "hole in the pocket" excuse?
4. What does Nora do to upset Blanche? Why does Nora do this?
5. Why doesn't Mr. Murphy take Blanche out?
6. Why do Eugene and Stanley argue?

7. What complaints does Stanley have about Eugene?
8. What complaints does Eugene have about Stanley?
9. Why does Kate need money from Stanley? What does he tell her?  
What is her plan?
10. What do Kate and Blanche fight about? What causes the argument?
11. Why does Blanche feel that she's been "a very dependent" person all of her life?
12. Why is Nora jealous of Laurie? What does she say she wants more than anything?
13. Why does Blanche feel cheated?
14. What does Kate want Blanche to do? (about the living situation)

15. Why does Stanley return?

16. How does the war affect Jack's feelings about Stanley's mistake?

17. What is Stanley's plan to make up the money?

18. What present does Stanley give to Eugene? Where did he get it?

19. What news comes to the family?

20. How will the Jerome family work together to help? What does this say about the nature of the family in times of need?

21. Why does Eugene write in his final entry that puberty is finally over?

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

*Brighton Beach Memoirs* by Neil Simon  
Act Two pages 77-104

1. What happens to Jack at the opening of Act 2?

*He took on a second job as a taxicab driver and he had a heart attack.*

2. What happened to Stanley's salary?

*Stanley lost his salary in a poker game.*

3. Why can't he use the "hole in the pocket" excuse?

*He used that excuse once before when he went to a "pro"*

4. What does Nora do to upset Blanche? Why does Nora do this?

*She leaves without saying goodbye. Nora is upset with her mom*

5. Why doesn't Mr. Murphy take Blanche out?

*He was drunk and he got into a car accident.*

6. Why do Eugene and Stanley argue?

*They get into an argument after Stanley confides in Eugene about losing his salary.*

7. What complaints does Stanley have about Eugene?

*Stanley says that every time he needs Eugene's advice Eugene wants something back.*

8. What complaints does Eugene have about Stanley?

*He snores, he picks his toenails, and he smells up the bathroom.*

9. Why does Kate need money from Stanley? What does he tell her? What is her plan?

*She wants money in case Blanche needs money for a cab on her date. He tells her the truth and she wants him to make up a story about being robbed.*

10. What do Kate and Blanche fight about? What causes the argument?

*Kate says that she's always been the workhorse and Blanche was always the pretty one. She tells her about all the sacrifices she's made in life for her sister. Kate is upset about Jack's heart attack and she's afraid something will happen to him when he finds out that Stanley lost the money.*

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

*Brighton Beach Memoirs by Neil Simon*  
Act Two pages 105-130

1. Why does Blanche feel that she's been "a very dependent" person all of her life?

*She feels like she can't make decisions. Her parents, her sister and her husband were always the ones who took care of her and made the decisions for her.*

2. Why is Nora jealous of Laurie? What does she say she wants more than anything?

*She's jealous of her sister because her sister gets all the attention. Nora wishes that something bad would happen to her so that she could get attention.*

3. Why does Blanche feel cheated?

*She feels cheated because her husband died when he was 36.*

4. What does Kate want Blanche to do? (about the living situation)

*Kate wants Blanche to stay with them until she finds a job and a place to stay.*

5. Why does Stanley return?

*He felt guilty about leaving his dad.*

6. How does the war affect Jack's feelings about Stanley's mistake?

*Jack is concerned about WWII starting. Jack lost his brother in the first world war.*

7. What is Stanley's plan to make up the money?

*He's going to work evenings and weekends in the bowling alley.*

8. What present does Stanley give to Eugene? Where did he get it?

*A postcard with a naked girl on it. He got it from the guy who owes him money.*

9. What news comes to the family?

*Jack's cousin and his family escaped Poland and they're on their way to New York.*

10. How will the Jerome family work together to help? What does this say about the nature of the family in times of need?

*The family is willing to put beds in the dining room and make it work. Even though they're already poor they're willing to do what they need to do to help out their relatives who are escaping Nazi occupied Europe.*

11. Why does Eugene write in his final entry that puberty is finally over?

*He writes that because he has seen a naked woman.*