

Structure:

	Act 1	Act 2	Act 3	Act 4
Scene 1 (street)	Jan & Mark	Jan & Mark	Jan & Mark	Jan & Mark
Scene 2 (field)	Leah & Phil	Leah & Phil	Leah & Phil	Phil & Richard
Scene 3 (wood)	Lou, John Tate, Danny	Leah, Danny, Lou, Phil	Cathy, Brian, Leah, Phil, Mark, Lou, Jan, (Adam)	
Scene 4 (wood)	Lou, John Tate, Danny, Richard, Cathy, Brian	Leah, Danny, Lou, Richard, Cathy (+ Brian, Jan, Mark)	Cathy, Brian, Leah, Phil, (Adam)	
Scene 5 (field)	Lou, John Tate, Danny, Richard, Cathy, Brian, Jan, Mark, Leah Phil	Leah & Phil		

Setting locations:

A street – this represents public people and society. As society has rules, Jan and Mark show a need for secrecy/privacy in their languages and therefore the setting of a street implies the problem or mystery which they get away from in the following, more closed settings.

- set in a street, which is a public location unlike the others. Could show the normality of their relationship compared to the others who are all quite alone and thus the locations are all fairly eerie and lonely. Could also show how they feel they have nothing to hide (Jan wasn't there as she had to go home and Mark does not show other signs of guilt through the play)

A field – this shows more privacy and openness than the street, suggesting Leah is free to express herself there.

A wood – darker, thus why the heavier and more oppressive scenes take place here. It is also hidden, suggesting the guilt the teenagers feel they have.

Scene 1 – in a street

- always Jan & Mark setting out the problem.

Act 1: "he's dead" → insinuating Adam's death and telling the audience about it

Act 2: "won't go" → how Brian refuses to go

Act 3: "Cathy found him in the woods" → excitement at Cathy's finding of Adam

Act 4: "gone" → Leah's leaving

Scene 2 – in a field

- Phil is always eating and Leah talks
- as the play progresses so do Phil's responses in Scene 2
- a field is an open space and thus could show the openness of their relationship and how Leah feels free when speaking to Phil.

Act 1: "I talk too much" → relationships

Act 2: "are you happy?" → happiness and killing of hamster

Act 3: "I'm going" → escape leaving

Act 4: "come back to us" → Richard replaces Leah (could link to how we are doomed to repeat ourselves)

Scene 3 – in a wood

- always different groupings

- in a wood – hidden, showing that what they are doing is considered wrong by them
- the various groupings show the power changes/shifts
- shows status and hierarchy are changing
- Phil and Leah are more central to the group plot in Act 2+3 than in Act 1
- in Act 2, Brian is more reluctant and has been forced to return
- Act 2: no John Tate
- Act 3: no Richard

Act 3: there are several structure changes in Act 3, Scene 3

1. Mark and Jan do not bring any character with them
2. Return of Adam → dramatic significance as he is the central focus of the play without even being present in the other scenes
3. Main power characters are gone (Richard and John Tate)
4. All characters are there from the beginning of the scene, implying a dramatic moment.
5. Phil splits the group up and this juxtaposes the unity at the beginning of the scene. This diminishes the groups combined power

The significant structural change is because Phil puts their inadvertent “murder” of Adam into a more violent phase by killing him in cold blood. Also he splits up the group and is perceived by Leah to be “not human”

Act 4 → characters who were not involved (who went home) return to normality

→ Richard is separated from the group and is powerless and therefore he seeks Phil’s attention

Possible reasons for writing DNA:

- An investigation of human nature
- Teenagers are used because the future appears bleak and scary to them. The play embraces the social stereotype of violent teenagers – this is shown mainly through Cathy “she loves violence now”
- The changeability of teenagers who have not gained a solid moral and social outlook means they are more easily led astray. This makes them more innocent in the “murder” as it questions whether it was an accident or a purposeful criminal act. Their acts are more believable, such as Phil’s plan, as adults would not do such a juvenile cover up. The age also adds a sense of desperation to the characters.
- Peer pressure being a major factor in the lives of young teenagers means that although they know their actions are wrong, in the heat of the moment it becomes reasonable. This emphasizes the reasonability and believability of the plot
- Kelly wanted to create “a world without adults”. It shows the concentric rings of popularity. DNA is about finding happiness .
- It responds to responsibility and is the greatest good for the greatest number ever right even if one person gets hurt. The play ends with many questions and is ambiguous.

‘Beat’ is used for when a realization occurs of something significant happens.

Stock Characters:

John Tate: bully

Brian: victim

Leah: attention seeker

Adam: keen

Jan & Mark: gossip/rumour spreaders

Phil: mysterious, quiet one

Danny: career driven

Cathy: drama queen

The roles of the Greek chorus:

- 1) To summarise information (Jan & Mark)
- 2) To represent the reaction of an ideal audience (Brian and in Act 3 Leah)

Directorial stance:

- the choice in how a director sees the character
- there are few stage directions in the play, therefore they allow for the director to place an opinion on what was happening.

Structural leit motif:

- this means the recurring theme or idea that guides the action and impetus (energy) of the play
- in DNA these are: struggle for power, fear, responsibility

