**How far would you agree with Pinter’s own assertion that ‘at the end of the play she [Ruth] is in possession of a certain amount of freedom’?**

As the only woman, she is the centre of attention in the play and the most enigmatic character. However, she is a very symbolic character as she embodies various male perceptions of women. She could be described, therefore, as a representation of a woman as well as the dream image of male fulfilment.

**How could all these roles be seen at the end of the play? How can you agree of refute this description of Ruth?**

Dramatically, Ruth could be seen as the ‘intruder’, common to Pinter’s drama.

She is the wife, coming from America into a very domestic scene and the only non-blood relative. Some critics have also seen her as the *shiksa:* a non-Jewish wife who has attracted her husband away from the Jewish family.

**How is this true of Ruth’s welcome to Teddy’s home?**

Ruth seems very comfortable in the room and knows she is wanted and needed. This is shown through various demands she makes. She is also shown to have much confidence in the face of the violent sexual attacks often made towards her.

Even when, shatteringly, she is told she will be a prostitute to make a financial contribution to the household, she turns this to her advantage and rather than shrinking from the idea, makes her demands for doing so.

**Provide evidence of where in the play Ruth seems to take control.**