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| This is an example of a **summary paragraph**about *Waiting for Godot:* | This is an example of an **analytical paragraph**about *Waiting for Godot*: |
| *Waiting for Godot* begins with two men on a barrenroad by a leafless tree. These men, Vladimir andEstragon, are often characterized as "tramps," andwe soon see that the world of this play is operatingon its own set of rules, its own system where nothinghappens, nothing is certain, and there’s neveranything to do. Vladimir and Estragon, we soonlearn, are waiting for Godot, a man or perhaps adeity. The tramps can’t be sure if they’ve met Godot,if they’re waiting in the right place, if this is the rightday, or even whether Godot is going to show up atall. While they wait, Vladimir and Estragon fill theirtime with a series of mundane activities (like takinga boot on and off) and trivial conversations (turnips,carrots) interspersed with more serious reflection(dead voices, suicide, the Bible). | The eating of vegetables like the carrots and turnipsare part of Vladimir and Estragon’s comic bits.They create comedy in their disagreement over thecarrot in particular when Estragon says,"Funny,"as he munches, "the more you eat, the worse itgets" (Beckett 13). Vladimir quickly disagrees, adding that, for him, it’s "just the opposite." While this could be a completely meaningless conversation – the point is simply that Didi is in disagreement, playing atopposites, adding to the bickering duality betweenhimself and Gogo. On the other hand, the carrotcould be about the meaning of life as a hint to thedifferences between the way Vladimir and Estragonlive their lives. Vladimir’s subsequent comment, anaddendum to his carrot claim, is that he "get[s] usedto the muck as [he goes] along." He seems to resignhimself to banality, but Estragon finds it, literally,distasteful. |