LINGUIST

How many languages do you know?
To speak fluently
or a bit
well of course some languages I only know a few words, while others
take something like a table, take a table, how many languages can you

table table trapezi stol mesa meza tarang tabulka
That's so fantastic. Tabulka. Meza. They all mean table.
They all mean the same thing as each other.
Table.
Table means the same thing.
Yes, they all mean table.
Or they all mean meza.
Oh if you mean Chinese.
Or in fact Swahili.
I can't help feeling it actually is a table.

MATHS

I don't want to spend an evening with them again.
You like them. You like her.
He will keep making his point about mathematics not corresponding to reality because it's just a system our brains developed as we evolved in the world and we've had that argument.
Whereas maths is really true.

Yes.

Which is why if an equation wouldn't work without there being an infinite number of universes there really must be an infinite number of universes.

That sort of thing.

But we do only have our senses, don’t we, to perceive with and maybe there’s all sorts of other things we haven’t evolved to perceive. Like an earthworm can’t know about flying or a bird can’t know about computers.

Don’t let’s have this conversation.

Why not go and see them and keep off the topic? We can argue about politics.

Because he won’t keep off the topic, he likes trying to make me angry because he fancies you. And nobody understands what we’re talking about and the evening’s ruined and we all get drunk and I feel like shit in the morning and can’t work.

Are you saying you never want to see them again?

He says maths is just consistent with itself. He keeps saying it doesn’t mean anything.

What does it mean then?

All right, we’ll go and see them.

She fancies you.

SEX

What sex evolved to do is get information from two sets of genes so you get offspring that’s not identical to you. Otherwise you just keep getting the same thing over and over again like hydra or starfish. So sex essentially is information.

You don’t think that while we’re doing it do you?

It doesn’t hurt to know it. Information and also love.

If you’re lucky.
GOD
God gives your life meaning. You've said that.
Yes, so?
If there wasn't God there'd be no meaning to your existence?
And?
So does God have a higher god to give his existence meaning?
and that god a higher god and that god
no of course not
of course not, so all this stuff he's done, he might find it all a bit
meaningless. I'm surprised he's not depressed.
I don't think he minds whether he means anything or not. I
don't think he thinks about it.
So why do you think about it?
I'm not God am I?
But I don't mind not meaning anything, does that make me
God?
It makes you really annoying.

RASH
It's just a rash.
But why, why a rash?
There's all kinds of like detergents and animals and stuff in the
air. Shall we have him tested?
He's trying to tell us something.
Oh come on.
Or he's trying not to tell us something.
Did you get the new cream?
CHILDREN
You can't have children?
No.
You can't have children?
No.
How did you find that out?
When I was married, it came up, we had tests and it was me.
So was that why?
No of course not.
I thought it was because she went off with the Spaniard.
She did
and she's got a baby now hasn't she, she and the Spaniard have
got a bambino.
So it makes a difference does it?

SHRINK
It used to just be pain
the memories of what happened to you when you were a child
and
and the things I wasn't letting myself remember of course
the things you'd
yes and now
so the analysis has stopped it hurting
not so much stopped
as what?
changed it into
changed it into?
transformed it
into what though?
It has meaning.
Because you see where it comes from?
partly that
and how it's affected the way you are?
partly that
and partly what?
It just has meaning now.
What does it mean?
It doesn't mean something. There isn't exactly another thing
that it means.
Then what do you mean when you say it has meaning now?
That must be painful for you. You can take it to your analyst
and have it turned into meaning.
RANDOM

These things can happen in any section. DEPRESSION is an essential part of the play. The other random items are optional.

DEPRESSION

Each of these is a separate random item. Each is said by one person to another who doesn't respond. The characters can be the same each time, or the depressed person can be the same and the others different, or they can all be different.

we could go for a walk it's a beautiful

there's an exhibition of expressionist

chicken tikka masala

programme starts at 6.40 or if you'd rather we could
glass of red or

thinking of taking one of the kittens there's a ginger one or a
maybe you could read them a story tonight or

the difficulty of getting the Israelis and Palestinians to

and he only has two months to live so I thought we could

a fountain of antimatter in the Milky Way that nobody knew