



SUMMARY

Within the walls of a Sausalito, California, recording studio, the members of a newly successful British-American music group, along with their recording engineers, aim to create a worthy follow-up album. While writing and recording the songs for this new album, the musicians navigate the peaks and valleys of their personal and professional relationships, which affect the overall group dynamics and the progress of their project. In addition to interpersonal challenges, the members feel pressure from the record label's expectations and the need to live up to their previous critical and public acclaim.

CHARACTER GUIDE

Simon: The drummer, creator, and peacekeeper of the band.

Reg: The bassist of the band and husband to Holly. He struggles with substance abuse.

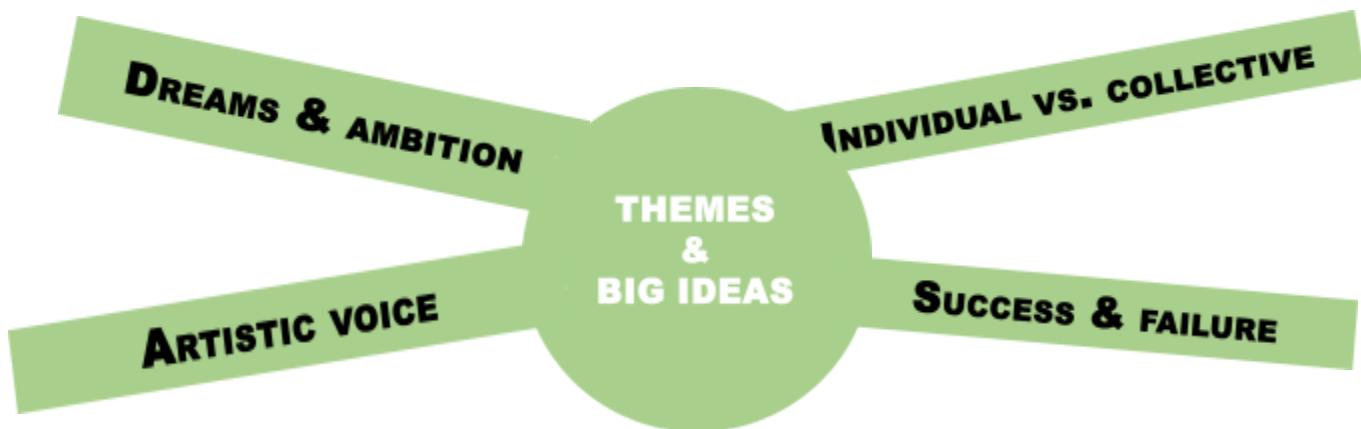
Holly: A vocalist and keyboard player in the band. She's married to Reg and becomes increasingly frustrated with him.

Peter: A vocalist, guitarist, and hypercritical producer in the band, working on their sophomore album. He's also Diana's longtime partner.

Diana: A vocalist and tambourine player who lacks confidence but may become a solo artist. She's Peter's longtime partner.

Grover: The sound engineer, who exaggerated his experience when applying for this job. He fears the band may find out.

Charlie: The sound engineer assisting Grover.



EXERCISES & ACTIVATIONS

Writing

Choose part or all of one of the themes from the show, such as dreams and ambition, or success and failure. Write a two-minute freewrite, moving your pen the whole time to write anything and everything that comes up for you on this theme. At the end of two minutes of writing, read over your free write and circle any words or phrases that capture your attention. Write a poem or a song chorus that includes the words that you circled in your freewrite.

Embodiment

Explore a volume scale from zero to ten in your body. Try it with sound. Try it with movement. Try it with internal energy, thoughts, and emotions. *Stereophonic* is a rather quiet play volume-wise, but sometimes, although the outside of a character is quiet, there is a lot of loud energy on the inside. Try that out. Are there times in our lives when we are quiet on the outside but loud on the inside? If you can think of one, describe it and share a little bit about why.

Contextual

The creators of this play have shared that the inspiration for the characters and story comes from many different sources and their imaginations. Still, comparisons have frequently been made between *Stereophonic* and the band Fleetwood Mac. Dive into the primary and secondary sources available online about Fleetwood Mac, their story, and their music. What similarities and differences do you notice between the fictional band at the center of *Stereophonic* and the real-life supergroup?