

Worksheet 2 – Religion

Review: Lecture 1. The Handkerchief

Can you answer these questions, which are based on the previous lecture from Professor Lisa Hopkins about the handkerchief?

- A. What did Smith suggest the handkerchief was made from?
- B. What did Thomas Rymer say about the handkerchief?
- C. What does Lynda Boose suggest the handkerchief is symbolic of?

Recall: Lecture 2. Religion

Answer these questions after watching the video lecture to check how much you remember.

1. Who gave a handkerchief to alleviate Jesus' suffering on the cross, which later became a religious relic and proof of Jesus? (Time: 0:18)
 - a) Veronica
 - b) Luther
 - c) Desdemona
 - d) Mary
2. What religions are relevant to consider when exploring the play? (Time: 0:50)
 - a) Catholicism
 - b) Protestantism
 - c) Hinduism
 - d) Judaism
3. Which moment of the play contrasts the evidence of the eye with the proof of the ear? (Time: 2:12)
 - a) When Iago narrates Cassio and Bianca's exchange
 - b) When Othello arrives on Cyprus
 - c) When Iago wakes Brabantio
 - d) When Othello kills Desdemona
4. Why does Mallette describe Iago as a 'blasphemous preacher'? (Time: 3:00)
 - a) Iago is a loyal servant
 - b) Because Iago is a priest
 - c) Iago abuses the ear
 - d) Iago uses words designed to help but actually hurt
5. Which biblical figure does Ribner compare Othello to? (Time: 3:38)
 - a) Satan
 - b) Adam,
 - c) Jesus
 - d) Ham

Bonus point: Why? He is tempted by the devil.
6. Lutheranism and Calvinism are two branches of Protestantism. What does Calvinism believe about who goes to Heaven? (Time: 3:50)
 - a) Hope for everyone
 - b) That all go to purgatory
 - c) Some are elect or damned
 - d) That souls are reincarnated.
7. Daniel J. Vitkus explores Othello's fear of conversion from Christianity to Muslim in the phrase... (Time: 6:20)
 - a) I am not what I am
 - b) Turn Turk
 - c) I am Christian
 - d) God has given you one face

Analysis

Throughout the lecture Professor Hopkins explores both religion and knowledge.

Read this extract from Act 3 Scene 3 and then answer the question that follows.

Iago	It were a tedious difficulty, I think, To bring them to that prospect: damn them then, If ever mortal eyes do see them bolster
400	More than their own! What then? how then? What shall I say? Where's satisfaction? It is impossible you should see this, Were they as prime as goats, as hot as monkeys, As salt as wolves in pride, and fools as gross
405	As ignorance made drunk. But yet, I say, If imputation and strong circumstances, Which lead directly to the door of truth, Will give you satisfaction, you may have't.

8. Prior to this speech Othello has demanded ocular proof of Desdemona's infidelity. Iago says that it is difficult for him to show this proof, but what effect might lines 399-400 have? ('Bolster' (meaning a pillow or support) is used as a euphemism for sex.)
9. What is the effect of the rhetorical questions in lines 400 - 401?
10. Iago says it is only possible to catch someone having sex if they are drunk or ____; explain the reference to animals in lines 403 - 404?
11. Iago asks if Othello would accept "imputation and strong circumstances" as proof. What argument does Iago present in the lines of this speech?

Evaluation

During this lecture Professor Hopkins highlights two responses to the question: was Othello's tragedy predestined?

12. Plan an answer to this question by completing this table.

	Othello was doomed from the start	Othello was NOT predestined
Ideas about religion from this lecture		
Evidence from the play		

Challenge: How do our expectations of the tragic genre affect our response to this question?

Glossary

- **Relic** - A religious object that has been in contact with holy individuals
E.g. Examples of relics include body parts and objects such as fabrics or wood.
- **Two confessions** - Confessions are similar to creeds; they are divisions of religion.
E.g. I belong to the Protestant confession of Christianity.
- **Catholics** - A branch of, and the original form of Christianity. Ruled by the Pope, Catholics worship various saints and believe in purgatory.
E.g. The Pope is the leader of the Catholic faith.
- **Protestants** - A branch of Christianity beginning in the 16th Century. Ruler of a country can be the head of the church and the bible is spoken in the vernacular language.
E.g. Hamlet is a Protestant.
- **Lutheranism** - A branch of Protestantism, in which faith, the Bible and the congregation was more important than a church or its priests.
E.g. The family were believers in Lutheranism.
- **Calvinism** - A branch of Protestantism, marked by strong emphasis on the word of God, the belief that humans are sinful, and the belief that some people are predestined to sin and others to do good and enter Heaven.
E.g. The priest was a Calvinist.
- **Elected** - A person predestined to be saved and to enter Heaven.
E.g. Desdemona is an elected person.
- **Damned** - A person predestined to go to Hell.
E.g. Iago is damned.
- **Epistemology** - The theory of knowledge.
E.g. The play explores the theme of epistemology.
- **Ocular** - Connected with the eyes or vision.
E.g. Othello wants ocular proof.