



Educator Materials: Curriculum Connections

Preliminary Information	
Title of Opera:	Composer:
Librettist:	Date and Location of Premiere:

Language Arts:

Characters

List the main characters of the opera and give a brief description of each of them.

Extension: List one positive personality trait of each character and one negative one. Describe how personality traits affect the behavior of the characters.

What can you infer about the characters by the way they dress? What evidence do you have to support your answer?

Which character do you believe is the most powerful? Why? Where does their power come from (money, social status, etc.)?

Setting

In what time period does the production take place? How do you know?

Where does the story take place? In what ways does the setting affect the action?

If this particular staging is set in a different time period or place than the original opera, why do you think the director made this choice?

How does the lighting play a role in communicating the time of day, season or passage of time?

Can you think of another play, opera or story that takes place in the same place and/or time period?

Make a KWL (What we know, what we want to know, what we will learn) chart based on the place in which this story is set.

Story

Did you encounter any new vocabulary terms while reading the synopsis or viewing the opera? List them here, along with their definitions.

What are three major themes of the story?

What is the main conflict of the story?

What is the original source material or inspiration for the libretto (if there is any)?

Extension: How does the story of the opera differ from the source material or inspiration?

Outline the story. What happens at the beginning, middle and end?

Expansion: Include a worksheet that has students map out the exposition.