



San Francisco Opera's

THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF USHER

Getty's Usher House and Debussy's La Chute de la Maison Usher

Curriculum Connections

California Content Standards

Kindergarten through Grade 12

MATHEMATICS

ATTRIBUTES

Comparisons in The Fall of The House of Usher.

Sorting and Classifying: What belongs, what does not belong, and why. Ex. Roderick and Madeline are of the House of Usher, while Edgar Allan Poe, Doctor Primus, Le Médecin and Friend are visitors.

MEASUREMENT

The Fall of The House of Usher's Use of Standard Units of Measurement in Story & Set Design.

2D & 3D Dimensions: Area, Perimeter, Volume, Scale, Proportion, Ratio.

Weight: Physical, Metaphorical, Balance.

Time: Passage of time (real & theatrical time), times of day (morning, afternoon and night; yesterday, today, tomorrow; time of everyday events such as dinner & bed time), estimation, reading time, age of characters.

What currency was used during Debussy's day? How much was it worth compared to today's money?

If you were Roderick, how much would it have cost to run your household? Create a budget for his household, taking into account all expenses.

Count the number of people who need to be paid when putting on an opera; use cast and company listings in the program to calculate.

Estimate how many people are in large ensemble scenes. Taking into account all the people on stage, how much would such a scene cost, in Debussy's time and now, in Getty's time?

Measure distances between places mentioned in the opera. Use map scales to convert inches to miles.

How far is Boston from France?

What's the square footage of the Usher's estate?

Measure how much fabric would have been used to create a dress for Madeline. Try to create your own, or draw a diagram.

GEOMETRY

As found in *The Fall of The House of Usher's* character, costume & set design.

Identification of Shapes, Repetition & Pattern, Rhythm & Symmetry.

Planes (Square, Rectangle, Triangle, Circle) & 3D (Cube, Pyramid, Sphere). Positive & Negative Space, Interior & Exterior Space.

Calculate area of opera stages today vs. opera stages during Debussy's time.

Build a scale model of The House of Usher. Take proportions into account. Calculate area of Roderick and Madeline's home.

Learn about the use of arches in Gothic architecture. Build a house and explore the stability of Gothic arches – a pointed arch; *especially*: one with a joint instead of a keystone at its apex

NUMBER SENSE

Counting using the production elements and music of *The Fall of The House of Usher*.

Formulas & calculations: Addition, subtraction, multiplication, division.

More, less, or same as.

Concept of zero (absences, disappearances. Ex. rests/silence in music.

Ordering & sequencing.

Recognizing and creating numerical patterns. Ex. beats, ABA pattern in music.

Survey taking: tallying and graphing.

Predictions.

ACTIVITIES

Design and play a board game based on the opera.

Research remonetizing formula; how do economists determine how much money was worth then vs. now?

Create costume patterns for *The Fall of The House of Usher*.

Calculate how much a night at the opera would cost.

What other kinds of businesses do opera patrons support?

What are the statistics on arts organizations stimulating the local economy?

What is the average price of an opera ticket?

How does it compare to the price of other kinds of performances?

How many seats do you need to fill to pay for the cost of producing an opera?

What's the total revenue compared to the cost of producing it?