



## San Francisco Opera's Verdi's *DON CARLO* Curriculum Connections

California Content Standards  
Kindergarten through Grade 12

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### HEALTH EDUCATION

The unifying ideas of health literacy are as follows:

- Acceptance of personal responsibility for lifelong health
- Respect for and promotion of the health of others
- An understanding of the process of growth and development
- Informed use of health-related information, products, and services

### MENTAL & PHYSICAL HEALTH

Taking care of your body. Ex. What do performers have to do to prepare their body for performing?

Conflict resolution. Ex. How do the characters resolve all their problems with each other? How don't they?

Dealing with emotions, stress. Ex. Explore from the point of view of each character. Who did they talk to about their problems and emotions before the invention of psychology?

Family issues. Complicated family dynamic in *Don Carlo*.

Gender roles & body image.

Examine the scenarios in the opera where people have choices; what kinds of decisions do they make and could they have been better?

How do the characters in the opera communicate with each other? Could they have improved their relationships through empathy? Fairness, punishment by proxy – The servant gets punished when Queen is really at fault

How do the characters in the opera try to influence each other? Are they experiencing peer pressure? What pressures act on the characters in the opera? How do they respond?

Love at first site; can it be powerful? Is it dangerous? How?

What makes a happy marriage? Elisabetta's situation - a loveless marriage; arranged marriage

How are women treated in this opera? How do they assert themselves?

Examine the male playwright's perspective of Verdi's women and their emotions: Scorn; Eboli feels scorned by Don Carlo (hell hath no fury). Eboli curses own beauty; is beauty an asset? Beauty as power. How might a female playwright present a different picture of the relationships in *Don Carlo*?

Do the characters in *Don Carlo* seem mentally healthy?