



## 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

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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

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

Dealing with emotions, stress. Ex. Explore from the point of view of each character.

Gender roles & body image.

Family issues. Family Tensions: How can a brother be so mean to his sister? How can he betray her? Do families sometime not get along?

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

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

### MENTAL & PHYSICAL HEALTH

Your mental health affects your physical health. What effects does violence and horror have on you – is it good or bad? Age? Being desensitized to violence – what are the consequences? Claustrophobia and paranoia.

What symptoms of mental illness do you notice in this opera?

Does madness/dementia normally lead to death?

What triggers Roderick to call his friend?

Why does the friend read a medieval story aloud to calm Roderick? What other avenues can be used to alleviate sadness and despair? What kinds of things do you do to calm yourself?

Keep a mood diary and notice the changes in your mood.

Research Edgar Allan Poe's death. What causes of death have been suggested?

How might Poe have received help today?