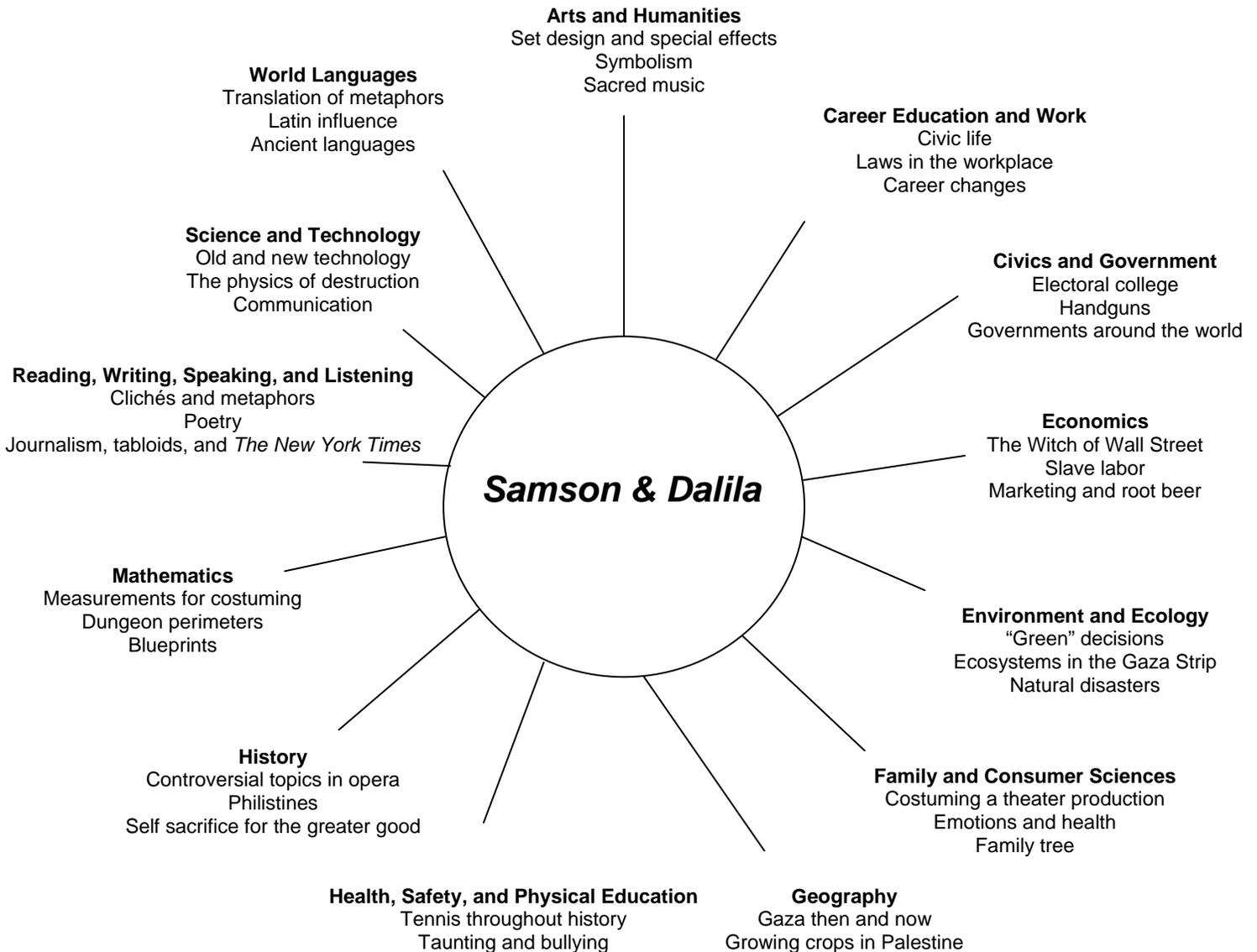


Curriculum Circle

How does the opera *Samson & Dalila* intersect with all academic content areas?
Begin with the opera and brainstorm connections to all curricula.



Lesson Plan Stems for *Samson & Dalila*

How does the opera *Samson & Dalila* intersect with all academic content areas?
Begin with a lesson plan stem and connect the opera to classroom curricula.

Arts and Humanities

National Standards: Dance 2-5; Music 3, 4, 6, 8, 9; Theater 3, 8; Visual Arts 2-6
State Standards: 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4

Explore the meaning of “bacchanal”. What are some dance forms that have come from the idea of “bacchanal”? How do you perform a bacchanal in an opera?

The polka was introduced in 1835, the same year that Saint-Saëns was born. Could the dance sequence in Act I or Act II of *Samson & Dalila* be a polka?

Saint-Saëns had perfect pitch. What is perfect pitch? How might this ability help a composer write music? Define the terms: synaesthetics, chromaesthetics, and perception. How might these terms influence composing music? Can these terms be used in other creative processes?

Saint-Saëns was introduced to the piano at age two. At what age do children learn to play musical instruments today? Do young children compose their own songs?

In 1835, the year that Saint-Saëns was born, Bellini, another famous opera composer, died. Compare the biographies, hometowns, compositional styles, and musical output of both men.

Franz Liszt, himself a famous composer and pianist, produced Saint-Saëns' *Samson & Dalila* in 1877. Who were other contemporaries of Saint-Saëns and Liszt? Tchaikovsky and Brahms were both composing by 1877. Chart all four composers' lives to compare the periods of each artist's personal success.

Although *Samson & Dalila* premiered in 1877, it was frowned upon because of its Biblical subject and remained taboo for the next 13 years. Yet today, *Samson & Dalila* is so popular that it is considered part of any opera company's standard repertoire. What do you think changed in those 13 years that would make this opera's music so popular that it is still performed 100 years later?

In 1877, two now-standard operas premiered: *Samson & Dalila* and *Eugene Onegin*. Compare these two operas by examining their plots, characters, settings, themes, musical styles, languages, and historical contexts.

In 1835, the Chair of Sacred Music was established at Oberlin College. What is sacred music? Would the opera *Samson & Dalila* be considered sacred music? Are there certain guidelines for performing sacred music?

One of Saint-Saëns' most popular compositions is the *Carnival of the Animals*. Listen to this composition. Create musical compositions to describe animals of your choice, using instruments or sound sources available in your classroom or at home. Discuss the idea of timbre. What timbre matches which particular animal?

Saint-Saëns wrote a film score. For what film did he write this score? Do other composers of "serious" classical music also compose for films? If so, then who?

What preparation must the opera's make-up artist do to portray Samson with long hair that is cut off during intermission? What role might the lighting designer play if the scene were staged?

Theater set designs use special effects that need to be reproduced for each performance. How might the pillars that Samson destroys during the opera be constructed so they can be "broken" during each performance and quickly reassembled for the next show?

Samson hears thunder as a warning from God. What other audible or visual symbols function as warning signs, both on stage and in real life? Apart from sound, how else could warnings be illustrated?

Samson's physical strength is manifested through his long hair. His hair, therefore, can be considered a symbol, or a metaphor, for strength. List your strengths; include physical, mental, logical, and moral strengths. What kind of symbol could you develop to represent one of your strengths? Draw a self portrait showing this strength.

Many artists have depicted the story of *Samson & Dalila* through music, dance, theater, and visual arts. Compare how each medium shows the story or portrays the characters. Hans Christian Andersen published the first four of his 168 tales for children in 1835, the year that Saint-Saëns was born. How might these stories have impacted Saint-Saëns' early years? Create your own opera using one of Andersen's tales as its basis.

Rodin's *Age of Bronze* sculpture was unveiled in 1877, the same year that *Samson & Dalila* premiered. Create your own statue of Samson. Consider how Rodin might have portrayed him, as well as how a modern sculptor might portray Samson for a 21st century public.

Career Education and Work

National Standards: Civics 1; Economics 2

State Standards: 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.4

Saint-Saëns worked for 20 years as a composer in various genres. Compare that to how long people tend to pursue the same careers today. How can people today move from one kind of occupation to another?

Saint-Saëns was a prodigy: he had perfect pitch, could read and write by the age of three, and had mastered Latin by the age of seven. In your school, would Saint-Saëns be considered gifted? What are the characteristics of a gifted child? How are gifted children identified? What are the special education laws that guide the education of gifted children?

Pretend you are a stage manager, the conductor, or a principal artist in *Samson & Dalila*. Research what these jobs might be like. Create a bulleted list of "To Dos" for the day before the performance for the job you researched.

In 1835, the same year that Saint-Saëns was born in France, an assassination attempt was made on President Jackson in America. Did the Secret Service exist at that time? Are there "secret service agents" or spies in this opera?

Civics and Government

National Standards: Civics 1-5

State Standards: 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4

In 1877, the year that *Samson & Dalila* premiered, American President Rutherford B. Hayes initiated the Easter egg hunt on the Capitol Building's grounds in Washington, D.C. Does the egg hunt still happen on the Capitol's grounds? What other national traditions do Americans have? When did these traditions begin?

1877, the premier year for *Samson & Dalila*, marked the year that Russia declared war on the Ottoman Empire. Who were the Ottoman Turks? How long did their empire last? What area of the world did they inhabit? What modern-day countries now occupy the same territory as the Ottoman Empire?

The same year that *Samson & Dalila* premiered, the United States government set up the Electoral College to resolve a presidential election deadlock. What is the Electoral College? How did the Electoral Commission affect the Electoral College? How has the Electoral College changed since its inception in 1877?

Punishment often involves something both physical and psychological. Throughout American history, punishment has gone through many transitions. What would it be like to experience Samson's punishment? Did his punishment "fit the crime"?

In the opera, the Philistine soldiers fought for freedom. Compare that conflict to the warfare between the U.S. government and indigenous Native American tribes, such as the Cherokee, that began in 1835, the year that Saint-Saëns was born.

In Saint-Saëns' birth year, 1835, many different forms of government existed throughout the world. What are the defining characteristics of democracy, republic, monarchy, and dictatorship? List some countries that had these forms of government in 1835.

1835 marked the year that Colt designed his famous hand gun. What made Colt's new weapon unique? What are the positive and negative consequences of hand guns? If hand guns had been available at the time of *Samson & Dalila*, how would the story be different?

Economics

National Standards: Economics 5, 8, 9-11

State Standards: 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5

Saint-Saëns and Hettie Green, the "Witch of Wall Street," share the same birth year. Who was Hettie Green and how did she earn her nickname? When were Wall Street and the New York Stock Exchange founded? How do stock exchanges work? What is the legacy of each? Would Saint-Saëns have owned stock?

1835 saw the publication of *The Undivine Comedy*, an early literary work dealing with class war between the rich and the poor. What effect does this divide have on society? Is there a class war today? Are certain privileges afforded to one class? How are the Philistine people depicted in the opera—would they be the privileged wealthy or the underprivileged poor?

In the opera, the Hebrews are an enslaved people. For what work would the Philistines have used slave labor? Analyze an economy that was built on slave labor. What advantages did this kind of labor afford that economy? What disadvantages arose from dependence on slave labor in that economy? Brainstorm other societies throughout history that were created through the use of slave labor. What became of these societies? Is slave labor still a problem in the world today?

Compare the cost of creating Biblically- or historically-accurate costumes for a production of *Samson & Dalila* to the cost of using modern dress costumes.

Root beer was introduced in 1877, the year that *Samson & Dalila* premiered. What new kinds of beverages have been introduced since then, how were they marketed to the public, and how popular have they become? What is the newest beverage on the market today? How is it being marketed to the public, i.e., why would people want to drink this product?

Environment and Ecology

National Standards: Economics 1, 2, 4; Geography 2, 5

State Standards: 4.2, 4.3, 4.6, 4.8, 4.9

Samson & Dalila is set in Gaza, now known as the Gaza Strip. Research the ecosystems present there, and list the native flora and fauna from that area. What mammals call Gaza home?

How can the concept of building modular homes be applied to building green (environmentally friendly) stage sets that can be used repeatedly? Follow this link to an NPR story concerning prefab housing design:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=94119708&ft=1&f=1008>

Design a green (environmentally friendly) stage set for *Samson & Dalila*. When a set has reached the end of its usefulness, how can it be disposed of in a “green” way? Brainstorm ideas for destroying, repurposing, or disposing old stage sets.

In 1835, fire in New York City destroyed 530 buildings, resulting in a loss of more than \$20 million. In the opera, Samson, with divine intervention, destroys the temple. Discuss floods, hurricanes, and other destructive forces throughout history, including present day. What is the economic impact when a city or town has its buildings destroyed?

In the opera, Samson destroys the Philistine’s temple. What would have happened to the ruins? How would those have been disposed of in ancient times? How do we dispose of ruined buildings today? What are the environmental restrictions or guidelines that need to be observed when buildings are razed?

Family and Consumer Sciences

National Standards: Health 3, 4, 5, 7; Economics 3, 6

State Standards: 11.1

Create an extended family tree for Saint-Saëns, and include his relationship with his librettist. Compare this to your own extended family tree.

Compare famous film or theater “vamps”—temptresses—across history, such as Angelina Jolie, Marilyn Monroe, Elizabeth Taylor, Mae West, and Pola Negri. To what extent does body size impact our expectations of what a vamp should look like? How does nutrition affect body size and health? Could a much larger woman, such as Kathy Najimy, successfully portray a vamp today? Include famous temptresses as they have been portrayed in art throughout ancient, medieval, Renaissance, and modern history.

Design three different sets of costumes for the characters in *Samson & Dalila*: one set should be historically accurate, one set should be from a different time period, and one set should be from modern times. What kinds of fabrics will your costumes require? What accessories, make-up, wigs? Are any of these fabrics easily found today or would you need to order them specially? Pick one of your designs and create a pattern for building the costume.

In the opera, violence leads to destruction. Is it possible to teach non-violent behavior? What do you think would happen if you refused to fight? What historical figures have followed a doctrine of non-violence? How effective were these people?

Though Samson's prayers are answered, his wish results in the destruction of the temple, his enemies, his followers, and himself. Have you ever gotten what you wished for and then regretted it? Explain.

Vengeance is a common theme in the arts and literature. Why is vengeance ultimately counterproductive? Debate this issue—is vengeance ever worth its price?

Does Dalila need anger management counseling? Compare her anger to Samson's.

Dalila refuses a monetary reward, which suggests she has personal reasons for her actions. Compare doing something for money to doing something for personal reasons. In your own experience, which provides the stronger motivation to succeed? Why?

Geography

National Standards: Geography 1, 2

State Standards: 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4

Calculate the distance between Saint-Saëns' birthplace (Paris, France) and the setting of *Samson & Dalila* (the Gaza Strip). Find this same distance between other places on a world map. Compare the climate, topography, and environment of these places.

Samson & Dalila is set in Palestine in 1150 BCE, in Gaza. Do a quick search for Gaza in an online encyclopedia. Where is Palestine? Why are these areas still so important? Why is Gaza still in the news today?

Explore the physical features of the Gaza Strip. List the important cities of the region, and their proximity to other large cities in the Middle East. What are the major industries or agricultural products that come from Gaza, the setting of *Samson & Dalila*?

Samson is forced to push a grist mill as his punishment. What type of grain was grown in Palestine? What other crops are produced in that area today?

Health, Safety, and Physical Education

National Standards: Physical Education 1; Health 5-7

State Standards: 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 10.5

Samson is blinded by the soldiers in the end of Act II of the opera. How does one depict, on stage, a person with a visual impairment? Are there other dramatic works in which a character is blinded? What special skills must a person with a visual impairment develop? How do you react to a person with a disability?

Dalila taunts Samson during a bacchanal. What is taunting? Does taunting exist in your school? What is your district's policy on bullying? What are the characteristics of

bullies? Does your school offer anti-bullying programs? Do you think there is a need for such programs?

In 1877, the year that *Samson & Dalila* premiered, Swiss theologian Louis Lucien Rochet founded the Blue Cross to fight alcoholism and Emile Zola published his best-selling novel about alcoholism, *The Drunkard*. How has the use of alcohol changed over time? How have attitudes about alcohol changed? What other substances can become addictive? Are some of those substances also used in helpful ways?

The first tennis championship was played at Wimbledon in 1877, the same year that *Samson & Dalila* premiered. How has the game changed throughout history? What is the history of Wimbledon? How is tennis viewed in the world of sports? If Dalila and Samson were to play a tennis match, who would win and why?

History

National Standards: World History 5-12; Technology 1-6
State Standards: 8.1, 8.3, 8.4

Consider the geo-political setting of *Samson & Dalila*. Create a timeline to show the changing political climate of that area from ancient times up to modern times.

What is colonialism? How widespread was colonialism at the time of *Samson & Dalila's* premiere? Does colonialism still exist today? Where?

The Seminole Indian Wars began in 1835. What other tribes were involved in this war? Tribes are also represented in the opera—what groups of people identified themselves as tribes in Biblical times? What is the definition of a tribe?

Research the culture of the Philistine people. What has the word “philistine” come to mean? How has the meaning of the word changed?

Research the god Dagon, whom the Philistines worshipped. What did he look like? How was he worshipped? What stories (mythos) involve Dagon in the Philistine culture?

The story of *Samson & Dalila* is found in the Hebrew Scriptures. Compare the types of stories found in the Hebrew Scriptures and other religious texts. How do these stories differ? Do the morals stay the same or do they change?

When Saint-Saëns first began composing *Samson & Dalila*, he abandoned his attempts for less controversial subjects. Why was an opera production of this story considered controversial? Are the stagings of religious works still subjected to the same kinds of controversy today? Why was Saint-Saëns concerned with presenting religious material when composers such as Brahms and Beethoven seemed to have no such restrictions? What are the differences between religious choral works and an opera that uses religious texts as its basis?

In 1835, Saint-Saens' birth year, electric batteries were first used to propel railroad cars. How has the railroad impacted the growth of the United States?

The editor of the *Webster's Dictionary* shares Saint-Saëns' birth year. What is the historical development and use of the dictionary? How would you learn the definition of a word today?

In 1877, the year that *Samson & Dalila* premiered, Thomas Edison invented the phonograph. Before the phonograph existed, how did theater-goers enjoy opera apart from attending live performances?

Saint-Saëns and Andrew Carnegie were born the same year and died within two years of each other. Compare their lives and how each man changed the world in which he lived. Could they have known each other?

In 1835, America's first iron bridge was built. Where was this bridge built? Are there still iron bridges in Pittsburgh? What made iron a better metal for bridge building in that era? What are Pittsburgh's bridges made from? How many bridges are there in Pittsburgh? Explore the name of the town called Ambridge.

Dalila fakes her emotions to get what she wants from Samson. Who else in history has deliberately deceived someone to get power or achieve victory? Do you know someone like this?

Samson chooses to sacrifice his own life to bring down the temple on his foes. Who else in history has done this? How might this relate to the concept of modern-day suicide bombers?

Samson and Superman each had superpowers, but they also had weaknesses. Where does the term Achilles' heel come from? What other historical or mythological "superheroes" also had an Achilles' heel?

American showman P.T. Barnum began his career in 1835, the same year that Camille Saint-Saëns was born. Barnum's sideshow usually had a strongman, like Samson, who would perform feats to demonstrate his great strength. What other stories have a strongman? Who do you think of as being very strong? What measurement of strength defines someone as a "strongman"?

Mathematics

National Standards: Mathematics 1-10

State Standards: 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6

Design a costume for an extra in *Samson & Dalila*. Use a student for a model and measure the proportions in centimeters. Determine how much material is needed to create the costume. Research the cost of fabric and submit the costume cost to a "class seamstress". Evaluate the cost of costuming the entire class for a production.

Create a size conversion chart to adjust Dalila's costume dress size from size 6 through size 18. For example, what size waist will fit into a size 12? A size 14? How much will the costume's waist need to be increased?

Theater seats seem small to many adults today. How has the average size of a person changed over time, such as from the 19th century to now? Calculate the difference in centimeters and inches between an average person's measurements then and now.

What was the average size of a Roman soldier? A Napoleonic soldier? A World War I soldier? A present-day soldier? Compare sizes by creating life size replicas.

Design a dungeon for Samson to serve his punishment. Determine the perimeter and area of this dungeon.

Draw a to-scale blueprint for a stage that would be able to house operas of different cast sizes. How can you make the stage seem smaller or larger to accommodate different casts and sets? Include space for scene changes in your blueprint. Compare your blueprint to real stage blueprints from other theaters.

Create a timeline for Camille Saint-Saëns, who was born in 1835 and died in 1921. List his age for each event on your timeline. How old was he when *Samson & Dalila* premiered? How old was he when the opera was finally allowed to be performed in his hometown?

Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening

National Standards: Language Arts 1-12

State Standards: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8

Samson & Dalila is based on a Biblical story from the Hebrew Scriptures. Interview theologians or religious scholars from different faiths and ask them to share their perspectives on the story of *Samson & Dalila*.

To simulate the experience of Samson, create a mock grist mill. After the simulation, create a journal entry from Samson's point of view. What thoughts might be tumbling through Samson's mind as he experiences this punishment? Use sensory details to describe the experience.

Create a vocabulary scavenger hunt from the *Samson & Dalila* synopsis or libretto. Review the definitions of words discovered. Create categories for the words and sort them accordingly. Some words to consider: bacchanal, bier, bondage, castigating, confiding, constancy, disarm, disbelief, dour, ensnare, feign, Gaza, Jehovah, maidens, Philistines, pillars, prodigious, prophecies, raze, rebuke, reveal, Saint-Saëns, slain, taunt, temple. For a challenge, look up the etymology of the words.

Create a story map to organize the main elements of the opera: setting, characters, introduction, rising action, complications, climax, and dénouement. Compare the

structure of *Samson & Dalila* to other stories or operas. What story structures seem to be repeated over time?

The *New York Herald* newspaper was established in 1835, the year that Saint-Saëns was born. This paper specialized in reporting on crime and society news, just as tabloids do today. Create a tabloid story based on the synopsis of the opera. What kinds of “news” would be included in a tabloid paper run by a Philistine editor? Write the story in the style of *The New York Times*. How do the two writing styles differ?

Consider the cliché that “love is blind”. How might this cliché function as a metaphor for several characters in this opera?

Look up the word “Diaspora”. How does the concept of Diaspora relate to the opera? Explore the idea of Diaspora—how could it apply to modern history?

Samson & Dalila are characterized as having a past love affair. Discover what the beginning of this story might be or write a new beginning (back-story) to *Samson & Dalila*, describing events that might have led to later conflict.

Dalila persuades Samson to confide in her. Brainstorm a list of ideas that you would like to persuade your teacher, parents, principal, or friends to accept. Choose one idea and write a formal persuasive speech, detailing why someone should listen to your point of view.

Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens) and Saint-Saëns were born in the same year. Map the major events in their personal and professional lives on one timeline. Did they know of each other? If so, how might they have communicated with each other back then? Write letters to Mark Twain from Saint-Saëns and vice-versa.

Saint-Saëns claimed to lack religious faith, yet many of his operas had religious themes. Does the outcome in the final scene of *Samson & Dalila* reflect this internal conflict?

Samson has a secret; his hair was the source of his strength. What does it mean to have a secret? Why do people keep secrets? When is it okay to reveal a secret? What other stories, plays, poems, or operas have characters that keep secrets?

In the opera, Samson hears thunder as a warning from God. In other performance literature, how do authors tell the reader that a character is being warned?

Samson & Dalila premiered in Weimar, Germany, at the *Grossherzogliches* (or Grand Ducal) Theater. How many other words can you find in “Grossherzogliches”?

The librettist for *Samson & Dalila*, Lemaire, was also a poet. Saint-Saëns set two of Lemaire’s poems to music. Write a poem, then exchange your poem with a partner, and set your partner’s poem to music. From this experience, discuss the relationship between a composer and a librettist.

The opera *Samson & Dalila* has many strong characters. Create poems to describe each character; explore different poetry forms (such as limerick, haiku, and sonnet), and choose one that best fits your character. Start by improving this limerick:

There once was a leader named Samson
Whose hair made him strong and quite handsome.
'Til Dalila one day
Had his hair cut away.
And the temple now covers poor Samson!

Science and Technology

National Standards: Science 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8

State Standards: 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8

Set designers for *Samson & Dalila* use technology to plan and communicate. Use classroom technology to simulate a set-building process. How might the project be streamlined with the addition of computers, digital cameras, and cell phones? How does technology replace human effort?

The temple in *Samson & Dalila* crumbles and falls. Analyze and discuss the physics of moving parts on a stage set. Design a system to create the illusion of the falling temple that can be repeated with each performance. What are the most important factors to consider? How can technology create or improve the action desired?

Consider the multiple scene changes needed to produce this opera. What scene changes could be done without massive effort, perhaps utilizing simple technology? How much cost is involved in such a complex set?

In 1835, the year of Saint-Saëns' birth, the horseshoe machine was invented, and ultimately was used by the Union Army during the Civil War. Compare the nursery rhyme "For want of a nail...the kingdom was lost" to the story of *Samson & Dalila*, in which for want of Samson's hair, two kingdoms were lost—the Hebrews and the Philistines.

In 1835, Coriolis described the deflection of a moving body with respect to the Earth's surface, a concept important to the study of weather systems. Define the Coriolis Effect in detail and explain why it is important to understanding the weather.

The *New York Herald* was established in 1835, and became the first newspaper to specialize in crime and society reporting. Consider how newspapers have changed with technology. From where do most people get their news today? How have news sources impacted politics? Has that impact changed with advanced communication technologies, such as radio, TV, the Internet, and cellular communication?

Do you think opera is as popular as it was 100 years ago? Why might this have changed? What advances in technology make opera harder to "get into"? What advances make it more accessible?

In 1887, the same year that *Samson & Dalila* premiered, Wesson installed the first electric streetlights in Newark, N.J. What advances in technology had to be achieved in order to make electric streetlights possible? Trace the science backward.

In 1877, the year that *Samson & Dalila* premiered, telephones first became available. Imagine living without a telephone. Of all the technological devices you have, which would be most difficult for you to do without? Which would be possible, but unpleasant, to give up? Explain why.

World Languages

National Standards: Foreign Language 1-5

State Standards: 12.1, 12.2, 12.3, 12.4, 12.5, 12.6

Samson & Dalila was written to a French libretto, but it premiered in German. Is it common for opera companies to perform operas in the language of the country in which they are being produced?

By the age of seven, Saint-Saëns had mastered Latin. What influence has Latin had on the English language? Make a list of English words that were influenced by Latin.

Collect and explore the diacritical marks used in French and German. Compare them to each other and to the vowel sounds used in English.

What language did the Hebrews speak? What language did the Philistines speak? What languages are spoken in Gaza today? Chart and compare the Hebrew and Roman alphabet.

The opera's official title, *Samson et Dalila*, is French. In English, it is *Samson and Dalila*. What would it be in German? In Spanish? In a language other than a romance language?

Locate Dalila's aria, sung to Samson, on page 83 of the libretto. Write four lines from the aria in French, and then translate verbatim to English. Because this aria uses metaphors, translate your English version into a version that you might actually say, using your own metaphors. Consider trying additional translations, such as into text-messaging format, street slang, and so forth.

Character Themes for Samson & Dalila

The Heartwood Institute lists seven universal character attributes: Courage, Loyalty, Justice, Respect, Hope, Honesty, and Love.

Discuss two attributes—loyalty and justice—after reading the synopsis of *Samson & Dalila*.

- *Loyalty is being faithful to a person, group, or ideal based on understanding that we are all part of something greater than ourselves.*
- *Justice is being guided by a balance of truth, reason, and fairness to all.*

1. Are the Hebrews and the Philistines loyal to their faiths? Are both loyal to their leaders? Do personal choices affect their loyalties?
2. Does Samson struggle with his decision to follow Dalila? Does Dalila struggle with her decision to coax Samson into her home?
3. After Samson is blinded, do his people continue to be loyal? Is their anger justified or are they uninformed and disloyal?
4. How might Dalila justify her actions? Is she working for the greater good or for personal revenge?
5. Judging by the outcome in the end, who is most just in his or her actions? Who deserves punishment and why? Did the story have a satisfying end?

Heartwood Institute, www.heartwoodethics.org, 1-800-432-7810