

Feedback on our “Coriolanus” class

1. The most important thing you learned in the class

There is a difference between following one's one path and serving others. As a king, that difference can create a big personal conflict and thus lead to being a 'bad' king if one tries to live one's one life.

The most important thing I learned in class was about the ambiguity of the hero in the story. That was something I had wondered about when reading the story and just took it for granted to Coriolanus was the hero because his name was the title of the play, regardless of the fact that I didn't think he was a likable character.

Got some great insight into Volumnia

I learned that communication is one of the major tools of a successful leader.

The most important thing I learned was that Coriolanus had many selves, and he did a lot of what his mother told him.

Coriolanus' themes of relationships and leadership were very unclear to me after my first reading. The presentation was helpful to my understanding of these topics.

I learned that the relationship between Volumnia and Coriolanus wasn't as simple as it seemed at first sight; it involves different topics of discussion. Also, I learned some things about politics in Rome.

Learned about a lot of outside info—helpful to understanding

Much more depth and understanding of play as a whole

Plot and main themes, interesting talking points

I learned that Coriolanus' motives were largely given to him by his mother.

I learned that the parents can't change.

It was interesting to think about the motivations of the Roman people.

This isn't directly related to the group, but Nicholas helped me understand Coriolanus' reason for exiling.

-Our scene work could have been better. However, I think the two scenes we chose were very good at bringing out all (or most) of the play's themes.

-Volumnia, instead of attempting to gain power by stopping Coriolanus, may actually have had different motivations, such as love of Rome.

-The most important thing I learned in class today was the role that Volumnia played in shaping Coriolanus.

-The most important thing that I think I learned while listening to the discussion was that I don't think you can say that there is a definite hero in any of the plays we have read. (Aside from Hero as a name and assuming we decide on the "definition" of a hero). There are some definite villains (like Iago and Don John).

2. The aspect or area of the play or class that is still "muddy" or unclear to you

What exactly the play is about.

Just the whole flow of the presentation. It felt very "impulsive" or very jumpy.

How individual ideas came together as a whole

I wanted to hear more about his mother.

Volumnia's role as a mother v. a patriot

I was still unclear about Coriolanus and the conflicts he had. Where they ever really resolved.

I'm still not really sure how much of Coriolanus' character was crafted by his mother, and how much is his own.

I was still a little unclear about what point was trying to be made about Coriolanus' mother. I feel like that conversation needed to be pushed further.

I still didn't understand who the main character was, Coriolanus or the mom.

Is Volumnia to blame for Coriolanus mistakes?

Who is real villain?

I was still unclear about Coriolanus and the conflicts he had. Where they ever really resolved.

Nothing except character analysis.

-The Valeria/Virgilia part is still not clear to me. Maybe it's just not that important of a theme.

-I still am unclear as to what Shakespeare's political beliefs are and how these beliefs shaped the play, the characters, and the events of the play.

-While the role that Volumnia played was discussed to great length I still feel unclear on all of her role.

3. What you enjoyed the most about the presentation

A lot of audience participation

I enjoyed how they really tried to get the audience involved.

I enjoyed how the whole class participated in the analysis/debate/talk

I really enjoyed the lively discussions.

I enjoyed hearing a lot of the debate that was going on in conversation.

I liked that the group members themselves contributed multiple ideas to the discussions and that they actually challenged and responded to the audience.

I really enjoyed the discussions, I think I could participate and contribute a little bit. I also liked that they covered a lot of topics that can be seen in the play like the mother-son relationship, the relationship between patricians and plebeians, etc.

I enjoyed when the discussion turned into a debate between audience members. It shows the class was engaged and interested in the subject matter.

Very thorough discussions of topics that were gone over

More input from group

I liked when John asked what made Coriolanus a hero--sticking to his beliefs or compromising.

Interesting questions/points brought up

Being a part of the scenework. :)

-I think that not focusing on one or two specific themes of the play was very good. We had great discussion about numerous themes and idea's.

-I enjoyed the discussion about the competing influences of the love of Rome vs. the love of family for both Coriolanus and Volumnia.

-I like the open discussion for everyone to ask question and break into different topics.

4. A helpful suggestion for improvements to the presentation

Could have used more scene work, maybe a little bit more lecture, little less Q&A

Practice the acting/memorization more :] It also seemed like they were jumping from one topic to another

I'm not really sure why you chose to perform the scenes you did. Maybe you could take some time after the performance to speak about that specific scene before you start a broader analysis.

Particularly at the beginning of class, there seemed to be some confusion on what the presenters were trying to convey. If they could open the discussion by presenting a clear idea as they did with their responses, there might be less bewildered silence.

I would have liked to see more scenes, it would have helped to see some of the elements that were brought up in the discussions.

Better memorization of the acting lines

I think that everybody needs to involve themselves in the discussion instead of just a few people.

A little boring

Have more members of the group speak

Better explanation of scenes

More preparation

I feel like the scene performances could have been more interesting. The purpose of performing them is to better demonstrate what the text is trying to communicate, but I felt like they were just reciting what was written without any real character. Also, the talking during presentation could have been more evenly distributed.

They depended too much on the audience. It created many awkward silences.

Don't let the entire presentation be based on questions for the audience.

-I think we could have improved by knowing the lines better and rehearsing more.

-I think the presentation can be improved if the analysis portion was more structured instead of hopping from one topic to another.

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