

Dr Faustus: (c) The Seven Deadly Sins

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☞ refers to links on www.crossref-it.info

- ❖ **Lesson focus:** To explore the relevance of the Seven Deadly Sins:
 - To Marlowe's audience
 - To a contemporary audience.
- ❖ **Opening exercise:** Allocate the Seven Sins around the group. Provide a pile of newspapers and magazines
 - Students cut out appropriate words and images to portray their particular sin and stick these onto a large sheet of paper
 - Display these posters and discuss them.
- ❖ **Textual examination:** Read aloud Scene 5 from Lucifer's entry up to the appearance of the Seven Deadly Sins
(☞ *Doctor Faustus* > Synopsis and commentary > Scene five)
 - How do the devils manage to change Faustus' mind after he called on his saviour to save his soul?
(☞ The themes of *Doctor Faustus* > Human and psychological themes)
 - How would you stage this short section?
 - Students could physically demonstrate the 'blocking' of this section to one another, and discuss alternatives
(☞ The context of *Doctor Faustus* > The theatrical context)
- ❖ **Discussion ideas:** Faustus apparently finds that the Sins 'delight my soul':
 - If you were directing a production, would you make this pageant attractive to the audience or not?
 - In what contrasting ways could you present the Sins?
 - What different effects would these have?
 - Think about audience response
 - Today
 - In Marlowe's time
(☞ The context of *Doctor Faustus* > Religious / philosophical context > The Renaissance)
- ❖ **Recreative task:** In pairs, invent an eighth sin which is particularly suited to the modern age
 - Write a speech in which it might introduce itself
 - If possible, perform these
 - What costume and props would you use?
 - What sound or lighting?
- ❖ **Critical task:** Does the parade of the Seven Deadly Sins simply provide a traditional spectacle for Marlowe's audience, or is it an important part of Marlowe's psychological presentation of the downfall of Faustus?
(☞ The context of *Doctor Faustus* > The theatrical context > Mystery and morality plays)
- ❖ **Extension task:** Research the significance of the Seven Deadly Sins in medieval belief, art and literature
 - Students could prepare a short presentation on this topic
(☞ The context of *Doctor Faustus* > Religious / philosophical context)