

TEACHER COMMENTARY: WHAT FOLLOWS IS AN ASTONISHING EXAMPLE OF WHAT STUDENTS CAN DO IN THE SERVICE OF MELDING DISPARATE DOMAINS OF KNOWLEDGE TO ACHIEVE A UNIQUE SOLUTION. TO SET THIS UP, THE BASIC PLOTLINE OF *THE DREAMS OF AURIANE* (HEREAFTER, “DOA”) IS THAT A BLIND CHILD, AURIANE, IS TO UNDERGO A POTENTIALLY FATAL EYE SURGERY AND IN THE NIGHT HOURS PRIOR TO HER SURGERY SHE LEARNS, FROM A WOMAN WHO’D KNOWN HER YEARS BEFORE, THAT SHE IS THE CENTERPIECE OF A PROPHECY THAT SHE WOULD OVERTHROW CAPITALIST EMPIRES, INCLUDING THAT OF HER FATHER, VICTOR ST. CYR. THE FOLLOWING SCENE IS THE FIRST OF AURIANE’S THREE DREAMS, THE EXPERIENCING OF WHICH PERMITS HER TO SOLVE THE VARIOUS CRISES. I WILL POINT OUT SOME OF THE RATHER ARCAINE SYSTEMS OF DISCOURSE INVOKED, BOTH AS PART OF THE ASSIGNMENT AND WHAT THEY DISCOVERED ON THEIR OWN. REMEMBER: GIVE YOUR STUDENTS SOME FREEDOM, AND THEN STAND BACK AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS.

SCENE TWO: AURIANE'S FIRST DREAM

EXT. A LONG WOODEN DOCK LEADING UPSTAGE TO A LIMITLESS BODY OF WATER.

ALL-SEEING EYE
(menacingly)
Tricks are for kids.

The eye dissolves into the water. The water drains into a vortex and she is flushed. As she is being sucked down the tube she sees Sphinx. As Sphinx spins around her it morphs into Griffin.

AURIANE
Where are we?

TEACHER COMMENTARY: THE CLASS INCLUDED SEVERAL MASS MEDIA MAJORS AND ONE CANNOT PASS BY THESE ASTOUNDING VISUAL IMAGES, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU SEE HOW ARTISTICALLY THEY ARE WORKED INTO THE SYSTEMS OF EXPRESSION, BOTH IN AND OUT OF THE SYMBOLS’ IMMEDIATE REFERENTS.

Without a word the griffin transforms into a hippogriff. The hippogriff turns into Pegasus and then a unicorn. As the unicorn’s horn grows through its own eye the entire being explodes. This creates a hole in the tube and AURIANE is sucked out of the tube. She lands in the catacombs.

She is surprised to find that even though she has just been in water she is completely dry. She sees the ALL-SEEING EYE again.

ALL-SEEING EYE
Light your own way.

AURIANE is standing at the end of a dock with EDNA downstage center. They are holding hands. The Creed song is playing in the background. They are facing the ocean. They walk the length of the dock upstage to dock's edge. As the light fades from her, Edna walks off stage right, thus "disappearing." As the dock suddenly transforms itself into a tram, AURIANE grabs a handrail. In the background are the sounds of wind and train whistles. Suddenly AURIANE plunges through the bottom of the tram into the dark water.

AURIANE sinks slowly to the bottom of the chamber, lying on her back (supine), arms at her sides, her head pointing toward the upstage area.

TEACHER COMMENTARY: THESE DETAILS ARE THE KIND OF THING THAT MAKE ME OVERJOYED TO BE AN EXPERIENTIAL/TRANSGRESSIVE TEACHER. OF WHAT FOLLOWS, I COULD HAVE ANTICIPATED VIRTUALLY NONE OF IT; YET, WHEN I SAW IT, I KNEW THAT THIS WAS WHAT I WANTED! SEE? I DIDN'T KNOW I WANTED THIS UNTIL YOU SHOWED IT TO ME.

Surrounding her at the four points of the compass are four people important in her life: stage center right is FATHER JOHN SHAGGER; upstage center is VICTOR ST. CYR; stage center left is EDNA MACCAULEY; and downstage center is ROSALYNDE ST. CYR. All but ROSALYNDE face the supine figure of AURIANE; ROSALYNDE faces the audience, slightly stage right of AURIANE.

Each of the figures holds a cardboard circle, about the size of a beachball. One side of each circle is pale blue and (if possible) surrounded by a metallic-looking ornate border, like the buttons Lara Croft has to press in the correct order in order to survive the underwater chamber challenge in "Tomb Raider: Legend."

TEACHER COMMENTARY: A KEY FEATURE OF AURIANE'S EXISTENCE IS THAT, THOUGH BLIND, SHE HAS MANAGED TO LEARN HOW TO PLAY COMPLEX FIRST-PERSON SHOOTER COMPUTER GAMES (HER FAVORITE IS THE "TOMB RAIDER" SERIES FEATURING LARA CROFT). IF THAT SOUNDS OUTLANDISH, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT THIS IS BASED ON THE CASE OF

BRICE MELLEN, A COMPLETELY BLIND GAMER WHO REGULARLY ANNIHILATED SIGHTED OPPONENTS. GRANTED. THE GAME WAS *MORTAL COMBAT*, WHICH INVOLVES TWO OPPONENTS, FACING AND FIGHTING WITH EACH OTHER. HENCE, ONE DOESN'T FOR THE MOST PART HAVE THE COMPLEX THREE-DIMENSIONAL WORLD(S) SEEN IN FPS (FIRST-PERSON SHOOTER) COMBAT SITUATIONS. I SIMPLY EXTENDED THAT FROM A COMPARATIVELY SIMPLE TWO-DIMENSIONAL TO A THREE-DIMENSIONAL ENVIRONMENT IN A COMPLEX FPS. ALTHOUGH I DON'T HAVE THE TIME (OR THE ENERGY!) TO DO THIS, I TRULY BELIEVE THAT IT IS POSSIBLE FOR AN UNSIGHTED PLAYER TO PLAY COMPLEX FPS GAMES. IN ANY CASE, THE VISUAL PALETTE FOR THIS SCENE IS TO REPLICATE THE CONTROL BUTTONS ON A CONSOLE, BUT TO DO SO IN WAYS THAT ILLUMINATE THE OTHER SYSTEMS OF THOUGHT BEING INVOKED.

On the other side of the circle for each key character is different color and a different symbol or symbols, suggesting the four cardinal signs of the Zodiac (Aries [FATHER JOHN]; Cancer [ROSALYNDE]; Libra [EDNA]; and Capricorn [VICTOR]). These are also the cardinal points in AURIANE's own birth chart.

TEACHER COMMENTARY: I REALLY LIKE WAY THE GROUP INTERWEAVES THE MEANING OF THE CARDINAL ZODIAC SIGNS AND ACTUALLY TO MAKE OF THE VARIOUS STREAMS OF MEANING AN AMALGAM THAT COULD EASILY SERVE AS A TALISMAN, SUCH AS THAT EMPLOYED BY VARIOUS ACTORS ENGAGED IN HERMETIC (I.E., MAGICAL) WORKINGS. BASED ON MY CONSIDERABLE KNOWLEDGE OF THESE OTHERS AREAS, THE INFUSION OF SYMBOL AND CHARACTER IS QUITE IMPRESSIVE.

FATHER JOHN's reverse circle is colored blood red and on it is the symbol for Mars (also in biology, the symbol for "male"), along with the Tarot card, "The Knight of Swords."

ROSALYNDE's reverse circle is colored silver and on it are a picture of the full moon and an infant child.

EDNA's reverse circle is colored pale green and on it is a picture of the scales of justice, as well as the symbol for Venus (also in biology, the symbol for "female").

VICTOR's reverse circle is colored black and on it is a picture of the head of a goat, along with the symbol for the Euro monetary unit.

ROSALYNDE
Spread your wings, little one.

Still lying supine, AURIANE slowly raises her hands from her sides until they point at FATHER JOHN (right hand) and at EDNA (left hand).

In your Old Memory, this is how
you know you emerged into our
world: these four are the gifts
you were given to you when you
came. You are the fire in the
lake.

**TEACHER COMMENTARY: MARVEL AT THE FOLLOWING, AND THE SO-
ENTICING PHRASEOLOGY THEY INVENTED TO ACHIEVE THE MEANING.
MASTERPIECE!**

In the following repeated phrase, each speaker stresses a
different word.

The **TRICK** is to press them in the
right order.

ROSALYNDE turns her blue button over to show the reverse.

VICTOR

The trick is to **PRESS** them in the
right order.

VICTOR turns his blue button over to show the reverse.

FATHER JOHN

The trick is to press them in the
RIGHT order.

FATHER JOHN turns his blue button over to show the reverse.

EDNA

The trick is to press them in the
right **ORDER**.

EDNA turns her blue button over to show the reverse.

FATHER JOHN turns his button back over to show the blue side.

FATHER JOHN
If you fight before you
compromise, you defeat only
yourself.

VICTOR
Starting brings misfortune.

TEACHER COMMENTARY: THIS UTTERANCE IS THE FIRST LINE OF THE JUDGMENT ON THE *I CHING* HEXAGRAM 49, "REVOLUTION," THE HEXAGRAM CAST ON THE EVENING OF THE FATEFUL HOSPITAL CONFERENCE. THE JUDGMENT READS: "STARTING BRINGS MISFORTUNE. PERSEVERANCE BRINGS DANGER. WHEN TALK OF REVOLUTION HAS GONE THE ROUND THREE TIMES, ONE MAY COMMIT ONESELF, AND PEOPLE WILL BELIEVE." THIS PREDICTION IS REFERENCE SEVERAL TIMES IN THE SCENE.

EDNA turns her button back over to show the blue side.

EDNA
If you compromise before you
fight, you show weakness.

ROSALYNDE
Perseverance brings danger.

TEACHER COMMENTARY: THE RHYTHM OF THIS REPETITIVE PATTERN IS JUST BEAUTIFUL, REMINDING ONE A LITTLE OF THE CALL AND RESPONSE PATTERN USED BY SOME AFRICAN-AMERICAN MINISTERS. CAN YOU SEE YOU EDNA'S OBSERVATION (ABOVE) IS GENERATED BY IMPLICATIONS OF THE OBSERVATIONS IN AN ANCIENT CHINESE PHILOSOPHICAL TEXT.

VICTOR turns his button back over to show the blue side.

VICTOR
If you prepare but do not embrace
the other, you lose your soul.

FATHER JOHN
When talk of revolution has gone
the rounds three times...

ROSALYNDE turns her button back over to show the blue side.

ROSALYNDE

If you embrace the other but do
not prepare, you have nothing to
give to anyone.

EDNA

One may commit oneself and people
will believe.

ALL

(in unison)

And people...WILL...believe.

Fade to black, remaining in darkness as the sounds of a
meeting, with participants heatedly conversing with each
other, fade slowly in. As the sound of the conversation
becomes gradually louder and more distinct, the lighting on
AURIANE's hospital bed (stage right) also gradually
increases.