

Salome 2025|26

Post-performance discussion and reflection questions

Now that you have seen the opera, consider the following questions:

1. Did you like the opera? Why or why not?
2. Did you relate to any of the characters? Which one(s) and why?
3. Did you have a favorite part?
4. Did anything surprise you?
5. Did you change your mind about anything? Did it affect your view of opera?
6. If you were writing the opera, would you make any changes to it? How?
7. What did you see that was visually interesting?
8. Did you recognize any of the music?
9. Was there any music that stood out to you? What made it remarkable?
10. Now that you've seen an opera, why do you think we've performed them for hundreds of years? Why do you think we are still performing them today?
11. How did you feel about being in the opera house?
12. Would you see another opera? Why or why not?
13. If you worked in an opera house, what job would interest you? (singer, lighting designer, usher, director, orchestra member, costumer, set designer, carpenter, etc.)
14. Is there a story that you would like to see in the form of an opera?

Consider these additional prompts for **Salome**, listed here and in the learning resources slide deck:

15. **Power and Truth:** In the opera, what Jochanaan has to say threatens those in power. Why might a leader or head of state feel endangered by someone who speaks the truth? Can you think of modern examples—real or fictional—where this happens?
16. **Obsession and Desire:** Salome becomes fixated on Jochanaan even after he rejects her. What does the opera suggest about what can happen when desire turns into obsession? How might similar patterns appear in friendships, relationships, or even celebrity culture today?

- 17.**The Role of Bystanders:** Many characters in the opera witness dangerous behavior yet do little to stop it. What responsibility do bystanders have when they see someone making harmful choices? How does this connect to issues in schools or communities today?
- 18.**The Dance of the Seven Veils:** Herod asks Salome to dance in exchange for a reward. What does this moment say about power imbalances, especially between genders or age groups? How do unequal power relationships continue to shape society today?
- 19.**Justice or Revenge:** Salome claims she wants Jochanaan's head because he rejected her. Is her demand motivated more by hurt, anger, or a desire for control? How do people today sometimes confuse justice with revenge?