

Sundiata p. 1-47 (9/19)

- Compared to “The Lion King” and “Hamlet”
- Griots
 - Educate kings of their history, avoid history repeating itself
 - Important role in society because of the importance of oral tradition
- Oral tradition not as accurate-does it make the stories richer?
 - For historians no, for society yes
- Sundiata begins to walk
 - He just decides to walk
 - Similar to wend Kunni when he talks again
 - Mother wants him to get the tree-somehow she knew he could do great things
 - Story shifts from about Sogolon to about Sundiata
- Left-handedness
 - There must be a reason-most respected prophets were left-handed
 - Could be evil or great
- Why does the king want to sacrifice Sogolon?
 - Scare her into letting him sleep with her
 - He really wanted to sacrifice her
 - If she can't give him a child (prophesy), what good is she?
- Could the king kill her? “If you manage to possess her, she will become an extraordinary woman”
 - How does such an ugly woman have powers?
 - After he possesses her, the blood of her powers leave her and she becomes an ordinary woman and mother
- King's first wife Sassouma (antagonist)
 - Afraid that her son won't be king
 - Jealousy over Sogolon taking precedence over her
 - Hires the witches-backfires because he is nice to them and now they are on Sundiata's side
 - Why does she assume Sundiata will kill the hags for stealing?
- Importance of fate- no divine intervention
- Why do they need fate?
 - Can't have randomness
 - Shift blame on something else
 - Sense of purpose
 - Scare tactics
- Sorcerer king
 - Wants Sundiata's griot
 - Griots are very important in their society
- Why does Sundiata want his mother to die?
 - She is old, end her suffering