

Topics:

GG3 lack of props

GG6- murder

GG13- song to father

GG13- rat faces audience

GG4- joke

GG8- destination

GG12- magistrate

GG35- rat's confession

GG11- law

GG29- fortune tellers

GG28- rat in temple

GG19- gov't worker

GG11- Tough punishment

What did you think of it because it was a play with themes from past readings?

-It was a political satire, ragging on legalism.

What did you think the moral was?

-You must fight against the system

-Purely legalist gov't is ineffective & harsh and must be combined with Confucianism also.

Discussion of pronunciation of Chinese words.

-Kuong Zhong pg 22 & 19 describes effects of legalism.

-Focus on duties before truth.

Wouldn't it be important to apply justice to right people?

-Far from utopia that the author indicated.

They did not give much change to prove innocence.

-Leader became arrogant

-Had right to suspect him though

-Just a bad string of events?

What do you guys think about using imagination in this play? Like on page GG3, the description on page.

-Yes but it is the same today

In intro, is the play optimistic?

-Yes, because justice will prevail but we must fight for it.

-Both points out good and bad.

-Too optimistic. Everything works out

-So he would have been killed?

-Maybe

What does the play say about women in society?

-Seems like they have a bigger role in this society than in others that we read.

-This society seems kinda like our society- on pg G8, neighbor says he was destined to be poor.

On page 18, Yo Lan mentioned being by Daoist temple. Does the quote "Be this way" have meaning to story?

-No, otherwise it would have meant "don't do anything."

Where is Confucianism in this story?

-GG23 "Humanity & justice worth more than 1000 pieces of gold."

-Leaders shown as inept.

How is Lou the Rat funny?

-Has aspect of comedy not only due to dialogue but by physical appearance.

-Lou shows cleverness and provides a sense of light-heartedness.

Are the people (characters and fortune tellers) doing what Confucius would do in their situation?

-Yes, I think so because it was complicated.

The method of interrogation was effective, but was it morally correct?

-Yes, it was just clever.

-For Lou the rat, it was perfect.

The audience knows what happens all throughout the play (as seen on GG13)

-Shows that that "murder" was not the main theme because we as the audience knew all along that he did it. But the main character did not know, so that was what made the story.

What about gambling and drinking in this story?

-Yes it shows the consequences of choices. For example, the lie started with a lie that came about because of drinking.

Could a lot of this story have been avoided?

-Yes, it was a series of unfortunate events that all added up.

Let's call it a day.

-Agreed.