CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

The Trial of Joan of Arc

Jeanne d'Arc; Pierre Cauchon; Guillaume Bouille; T. Douglas Murray · *1431; rehabilitation 1450-1456; Murray translation 1902 · T. Douglas Murray, 1902*

The condemnation trial of 1431 and the rehabilitation of the 1450s, in T. Douglas Murray's 1902 English of the records (Project Gutenberg #57389). Joan, a girl of Domremy, tells the court she was thirteen when she had a Voice from God. She is condemned, and later the sentence is reversed. The hosted file is the Murray volume, now complete.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

What does a young woman say, under examination and under the fear of the fire, about the Voices that sent her, and how should a student read both the condemnation and the later rehabilitation?

> *"I was thirteen when I had a Voice from God for my help and guidance. The first time that I heard this Voice, I was very much frightened; it was mid-day, in the summer, in my father's garden."*
>
> **Joan of Arc** · Condemnation trial

These are records of a trial, not a romance invented later. Joan answers about the Voice, about Saint Catherine and Saint Margaret, and about the fear of the fire. The condemnation and the rehabilitation both belong to the hosted volume. Teach her courage and her faith as she spoke them, and teach the court's pressure as the documents show it.

KEY CHARACTERS

Joan of Arc (Jeanne d'Arc)
The girl of Domremy who tells the court of a Voice from God, and who dies at Rouen

Pierre Cauchon
The bishop who presides at the condemnation trial

Saint Catherine and Saint Margaret
The saints Joan names as her Voices, and whom she believes come from God

The doctors and assessors
The clergy who examine her at Rouen

Guillaume Bouillé and the later commissioners
The men of the rehabilitation inquiries that reversed the sentence

T. Douglas Murray
The 1902 editor and translator of the hosted English volume

A VOICE, AND THE FEAR OF THE FIRE

> *"I was thirteen when I had a Voice from God for my help and guidance. The first time that I heard this Voice, I was very much frightened; it was mid-day, in the summer, in my father's garden."*
>
> **Joan of Arc** · Condemnation trial

> *"All I said and revoked, I said for fear of the fire."*
>
> **Joan of Arc** · Condemnation trial, after the revocation

Grades 9–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

A Voice in Her Father's Garden

CONDEMNATION TRIAL, THE EARLY EXAMINATIONS

Asked of her beginning, Joan tells the court she was thirteen when she had a Voice from God for her help and guidance, at mid-day, in summer, in her father's garden.

- The words are hers, as Murray translates the record: a Voice from God, and she was very much frightened
- She also says, "Pass that by," when she will not follow a question further; the edition keeps the French [_Passez outre_]
- The Voices are, she later says, Saint Catherine and Saint Margaret, and she believes they come from God
- Quote the trial, not a later legend in place of it

> *"I was thirteen when I had a Voice from God for my help and guidance. The first time that I heard this Voice, I was very much frightened; it was mid-day, in the summer, in my father's garden."*
>
> **Joan of Arc** · Condemnation trial

02

The Examination

THE CONDEMNATION SITTINGS AT ROUEN, 1431

Bishop Cauchon and the doctors examine her on the Voices, the banner, the king, her dress, and her faith. She answers, and sometimes she refuses to answer.

- The court is an ecclesiastical court under English-held Rouen; teach that setting
- Joan's answers are often brief, firm, and careful; she will not put the Voices to a trap if she can help it
- Questions about the crown, the sword, and the king's mission run through the sittings
- Murray translates the records; keep his wording, and do not modernize her speech on the map

03

For Fear of the Fire

THE ABJURATION AND THE RELAPSE

Under the threat of the stake she signs a revocation, and then she takes it back. She tells the court that what she revoked, she said for fear of the fire.

- The line is exact in this English: "All I said and revoked, I said for fear of the fire."
- She still affirms that she believes her Voices are Saint Catherine and Saint Margaret, and that they come from God
- Teach the fear honestly; courage here is not the absence of fear
- The condemnation follows; she is burned at Rouen. Teach it with gravity, not as spectacle

> *"All I said and revoked, I said for fear of the fire."*
>
> **Joan of Arc** · Condemnation trial, after the revocation

04

The Rehabilitation

THE INQUIRIES OF 1450–1456

A generation later, the sentence is examined again. Witnesses from Domremy and from the old court are heard, and the condemnation is reversed.

- The hosted Murray volume includes the rehabilitation as well as the condemnation
- Guillaume Bouillé and the later commissioners belong to this second record
- Teach both halves: the death, and the later clearing of her name
- Do not treat the rehabilitation as if it undid the suffering; it judges the sentence

05

The 1902 Murray Volume, Complete

THE HOSTED FILE

T. Douglas Murray, Jeanne d'Arc: Maid of Orleans, Deliverer of France, 1902, PG #57389. The live file is the complete volume, not a short extract packet.

- An earlier incomplete extract on the site has been replaced with the full Murray text
- Quote the records as Murray translates them; skip only editorial apparatus when it is clearly his, not Joan's
- For grades 9–12; a trial for heresy and a death by fire, taught with gravity and with respect for her faith
- The library's interest is her courage, her obedience to the Voices she believed were from God, and the justice of the later inquiry

Vocation and Obedience · Courage under Examination · Truth and Fear · Justice Delayed · Faith and the Court · Witness

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 9–12

1. Joan's first testimony is exact: she was thirteen, the Voice was from God for her help and guidance, at mid-day in summer in her father's garden, and she was very much frightened.
2. "All I said and revoked, I said for fear of the fire." Teach the fear; do not pretend she felt none. Courage here is truth recovered under threat.
3. The hosted text is now the complete Murray volume (1902, PG #57389), condemnation and rehabilitation together. An earlier short extract packet has been replaced.
4. This is a trial record, not a novel. Keep Murray's wording. When Joan says "Pass that by," the edition may add [_Passez outre_]; that is editorial, not a second speech.
5. For grades 9–12. A death by fire must be taught with gravity and with respect for her faith, not as spectacle and not as a merely political fable.

Quotations are verbatim from the T. Douglas Murray, 1902, Project Gutenberg #57389, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/the-trial-of-joan-of-arc/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.