ACTIVITIES

The Da Vinci Code refers to many religious and mythological symbols such as the pentacle, the rose, the square cross, and so on. Have each student choose a symbol and gather information on it from the book and other sources. Students should then write a poem that incorporates the symbol, and illustrate it in the medium of their choice. O Correlates to Common Core Standard CCSS.W.6.1, 7, 8, 9."
When an eminent curator is found shot to death at the Louvre surrounded by cryptic writings, historical places, landmarks, and paintings, it is easy to forget. This edition includes two maps as well as an 8-page photo insert which presents the past combined with breathtaking action make this thriller hard to put down and impossible to forget. If they can solve a series of coded messages in time, they may save one of the world's most strained?

To historical artifacts such as you'd see in a museum. Why do museums collect and display objects from the past? What can such objects tell us? How does art change the viewer's experience? Discuss what the flashbacks tell you about his character. What are your first impressions of him? What is your view of him at the end of the novel? Explore how the author keeps certain aspects of Teabing hidden from the reader. Why is he so intent on finding the secret of the Grail and making it public? Would you call Teabing a villain? Justify your viewpoint.

Captain Fache, Bishop Aringarosa, and Sir Leigh Teabing each have a sort of assistant. Leonato Collet, Silas, and Rémy. Compare and contrast the relationships of the three pairs of men. How do other men use their powerful men treat their allies? What do those interactions show about their characters?

The book opens with a list of facts, then moves to a prologue. Why might the author start it this way? Discuss the transition between the prologue and the first chapter. What happens in the epilogue? How does it relate to the rest of the novel, including the prologue and the first chapter?

Identify the narrative point of view and the first chapter. What is your view of him at the end of the novel? Explore how the author keeps certain aspects of Teabing hidden from the reader. Why is he so intent on finding the secret of the Grail and making it public? Would you call Teabing a villain? Justify your viewpoint.

6. Identify different ways in which secrecy, a major theme in the novel, matters in the plot in terms of individuals and in terms of secret societies. What is secrecy used for? How does the title reflect the emphasis on secrecy?

7. The author is a master at building suspense. Find specific examples of suspense and analyze narrative techniques that he uses. What role does secrecy play in creating suspense?

8. An early description of Captain Fache, whose nickname is the Bull, says that he “carried himself like an angry ox, his wide shoulders hunched back and his much tanned face looked mean.” (p. 18) How has his nickname and description color the reader’s view of him? Describe his interactions with Bishop Aringarosa. Discuss whether or not Fache treats Robert and Sophie fairly.

9. Describe Bishop Aringarosa and Opus Dei. What is the bishop’s attitude toward the Priory of Sion and the Grail? Why is the bishop’s relationship with the Vatican strained?

10. What do flashbacks tell you about his past? How does Sophie’s past relate to their current treasure hunt?

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The greatest conspiracy of the past 2,000 years is about to unravel.

Pre-reading Discussion

Talk about art and its role in society. Is art important? Why, or why not? Expand the discussion to historical artifacts such as you’d see in a museum. Why do museums collect and display objects from the past? What can such objects tell us? How does art change the viewer’s perspective on the world?

Discussion Questions

1. Why is da Vinci’s name in the title? Describe the different ways that he appears in the narrative. How is his art important to the plot? What other interests of his are included? Do you think it’s an effective title for this novel? Why, or why not?

2. Discuss Robert Langdon’s character and interests, giving examples from the text. How does he get pulled into the series of dangerous adventures, starting at the Louvre? In what ways is he an unlikely hero for a thriller?

3. Robert and Sophie quickly become allies. Analyze Sophie’s personality and her skills, and compare them to Robert’s. How does Sophie and Robert help each other? What do flashbacks tell you about his past?

4. Even though he dies at the beginning, Jacques Sauniere is central to the story. Explain who he is and his role in the plot. What do flashbacks tell you about his history with Sophie, and how does that history prove important? Describe the Priory of Sion and his place in it.

5. When did you first realize that puzzles and riddles would be key elements in the novel? Choose a few of the puzzles and riddles that Robert and Sophie encounter and examine how they solve them. What strengths do each of them bring to the problems? How does Sophie’s past relate to their current treasure hunt?

RL.6.5, 9.5; CCSS.RL.6.6, 7.6, 8.6; CCSS.SL.6.1, 7.1, 8.1, 9.1.

DAN BROWN

The Da Vinci Code

Inferno

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Robert and Sophie into a dangerous treasure hunt across Europe, chased by a ghostly assassin. If they can solve a series of coded messages in time, they may save one of the world’s most strained?

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Make transitions from one character or one setting to the next? Examine how this structure affects pace and suspense, giving specific examples.

In the taxi on the way to the bank, Langdon thinks, “Everyone loves a con -

spicacy,” (p. 197) which the librarian at the King’s College library also says (p. 314). What do they mean? In what way is the search for the Grail related to conspiracies? What strands of the novel’s plot would you label as conspiracy, and why?

11. While most chapters follow Robert Langdon through a major theme in the novel, matters in the plot in terms of individuals and in terms of secret societies. What is secrecy used for? How does the title reflect the emphasis on secrecy?

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