

Classroom Discussion Questions

Social Studies Curriculum:

La Serva Padrona (The Housekeeper Becomes the Wife) premiered in 1733, but has been re-imagined as a story in the 1950s. Even though the music you heard today is old, are there stories being told through music today? Are there *new* operas being performed?

Possible comparisons to modern day music & opera:

1st - 5th Grade: Discuss musicals versus opera, such as *Hamilton*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, or *Wicked* - are operas and musicals different or are they similar.

6th - 12th Grade: Read an article on the new opera *Blue* written about police violence in America - <https://newsela.com/read/police-violence-opera/id/2001006727>

10th - 12th Grade: Read an article about the first Black composer to have his work debuted at the Metropolitan Opera: <https://apnews.com/article/entertainment-music-arts-and-entertainment-opera-terence-blanchard-c74f39514914594c68db34b1b9bf37bc>

English Language Arts Curriculum:

The Housekeeper Becomes the Wife (La Serva Padrona) uses what we call “stock characters” to portray Serpina and Uberto. Do you know of any stereotypes or “stock characters” in any other movies, tv shows, or plays that you have seen?

What characters in books, movies, or tv shows are Serpina and Uberto similar to? Why are they similar — is it the way they talk, act, or look?