

Classroom Discussion Questions:

Die Zauberflöte - *The Magic Flute* - premiered in 1791 and continues in popularity more than 230 years later! The story contains elements that continue to have meaning in our lives today.

The story speaks to our own life experiences:

The serpent/dragon chases and harasses Tamino.

- Do you sometimes feel harassed?
- Do you enjoy action films in which the hero is chased?
- What about the chase is both scary and exhilarating?

Papageno takes credit for something that he has not done: he lies.

- Do you sometimes feel forced into a lie?
- Do you notice in films the hero is deceived by someone in some way?
- What do you think about lying? Do you call it "exaggerating" rather than lying?

Tamino is so happy to meet Papageno after his serpent/dragon escape.

- Do you experience similar happiness when you see a friend?
- Do you predict that at the end of a film that two (or more) people will happily be together at the end?
- Are there times when you find someone is really not a friend? What makes a friend?

A timeless story deals with experiences and feelings that all humans feel at some time or another: harassed/chased; lied to/deceived; happiness with friendships; pain with loss of friendship, and many more feelings in *The Magic Flute* story and other stories.

An opera's story allows us to see and to experience our feelings in another person's situation!