

Hello students,

welcome to this module on the play.

The Duchess of malfi.

In this module we will be looking

at the Act wise summary of the play.

The outline of the module is:

introduction source of the Play

Act wise summary and conclusion.

At the end of the module I hope that

you will be in a position to state

the significance of John Webster.

As a Jacobian dramatist,

that is the playwright and understand

the major plot points of the play, The Duchess of malfi.

So let us begin: the Duchess of Malfi

is a play written by John Webster

who was a Jacobian dramatist,

which means that he wrote

under the reign of King James,

the first of England.

He is best known for his tragedies,

the White Devil and the Duchess of Malfi,

of which we will be doing

the Duchess of Malfi today.

The Duchess of Malfi's Historical

records show us was probably written

somewhere around 1613 or 1614.

However,

it was definitely performed

for the first time in 1614 by

The Kingsmen which was a very

popular acting troupe of the time.

The play is based on the true

story of Giovanne of Aragon.

Let me tell you that when you study

your history or a tragedy of this sort,

the source of the play becomes

very important because many

times the playwright juxtaposes

the historical record with.

Fictional accounts of the same event,

so the Duchess of Malfi,

as I mentioned,

is based on the true story

of Joanna of Aragon,

who also married her steward Antonio Balogna

and lived in constant fear of her brothers.

As the Duchess of Malfi does

in this particular play now,

not all the sources of the original

story are available to us.

However,

the major plot points of the story

are based on real life events.

The Duchess of Malfi was written

in the form of a revenge tragedy,

and critics are very appreciative of

the fact that John Webster popular

popularized a form that was going out

of practice at that point of time.

So let us begin the act wise summary.

We begin with act one.

Act one begins in the Duchess' chamber

in Malfi in 16th century Italy,

and there is a scene between

Antonio Bologna.

Antonio Bologna is the steward in

the court of the Duchess of Malfi,

and he's also the Duchess love interest,

but he's oblivious to that fact.

Antonio has just returned from France,

where he has seen the way the King

of France operates and he's very

appreciative of the way the King of

France has carried is carrying out

his administration because he says

that the King of France is cleansed.

The court of all the corrupt individuals.

Now this is a very good foreshadowing

technique that John Webster uses,

but I will speak more on this in the

further modules now the conversation

between the Cardinal and the Bosola

who are two other characters

who enter this particular scene

is very important.

The Cardinal is the brother of the Duchess,

and Bosola is a very important character

who turns from a willing into an antihero,

and probably a hero in the Duchess of Malfi.

So we'll keep this character in

mind now through the conversation

between the Cardinal and Bosola,

we come to know that Bosola is a

henchman and the Cardinal had hired

Bosola to carry out some offense due

to which Bosola was put into prison.

Now when Bosola was put in prison,

not only did the Cardinal.

Withdraw all forms of awards that are

rewards that he had promised Bosola,

but he also went ahead and abandoned Bosola.

So Bosola has come back from the prison.

A very embittered man,

and yet he's subservient to the

Cardinal because he is in need of money.

Just then Ferdinand enters.

He congratulates Antonio and speaks

of you know he congratulates Antonio

because Antonio has won in a jousting

contest and he also speaks of fighting

in the rear in a real war of which they

have not got any opportunity as yet.

Once all these characters leave,

Antonio describes the characters of

the Cardinal Ferdinand and their

sister Dutch is the Duchess to Delio.

He says that the Cardinal is a

very cold and calculated cruel man

whereas Duke Ferdinand.

Is turbulent,

violent and unpredictable in nature?

The Duchess, On the contrary,

is a stock opposite of these characters.

She's the very epitome of grace,

beauty and dignity.

The scene,
the act continues and we
see that the brothers,
the garden and foreigners are now in
the duchesses chamber and they come to
her because they're leaving Malfi and
they're going to Rome before they do so.
Do permanent hires Bersola as the horse
professor in the Duchesses Sir Court.
Now this is just a facade
because in reality is hiring,
hiring Missoula to be a spy and to
keep a watch on the duchesses affairs
because they don't want the Duchess to
remarry or have any kind of allies or with.
Any of the men?
They also the brothers,
that is a Cardinal and Ferdinand also advise,
but subtly threaten the Dutch
is not to ever remarried.
The Duchess is irritated at this

attempt of controlling her life,

but she nevertheless agrees with them.

But as soon as they leave she calls

Antonio Balogna, her steward,

with whom she is or has been in

love and in the presence of her

waiting woman Carriola she gets

married to Antonio Bellona.

She proposes to him first

and after initial hesitation.

Antonio accepts and they both get

married in the presence of Carriola,

the waiting woman of the Duchess.

This brings us to the end of act

one and act two begins.

Now we come to know that considerable

time has lapsed between act one and Act

2 because now the Duchess is pregnant.

The marriage of between Antonio

and the Duchess is still a secret

and so is the Duchess.

Pregnancy Basona gets suspicious

of the Duchess pregnancy, however,

and in order to confirm his suspicion,

he offers the fruit apricot to the Dutch.

Is the fruit.

Apricot is supposed to induce labor in a

woman and therefore the Duchess eats them.

And immediately get sick.

That is, she goes into labor.

Now Mazzola suspicion gets confirmed,

but there is Antonio and deliver in a frenzy,

because now they have to hide this entire

thing and therefore they come up with a plan.

The plan that they come up with is that

they say that the Duchess is jewels have

been stolen in order to catch the thief,

they have to keep all the servants away

from the main headquarters of the judges.

So they send all the servants away so that

the doctors can come and just can have her.

Baby peacefully, Antonio.

Also since Dileo to Rome to keep a watch
on the Duchess brother so that they may
not act erratically if they come to know
the news of her pregnancy and delivery.

Pazzola decides to confirm his
suspicion further before writing to
Ferdinand about the Duchess pregnancy.

So he goes at night near the doctor's
chamber where he meets Antonio,
who stops him.

Antonio also accuses persona
of deliberately getting out.

Dutch is sick by giving her rotten
apricots and also of stealing.

Jewels, but was older defends himself.

Antonio suddenly gets a Nosebleed
and has to rush off,

but in the whole bargain,

he drops off a very important
paper which contains the horoscope
of the newly born baby.

Mazzola procures this document,
and when he peruses through it,
he realises that indeed the Duchess
has given birth to a baby boy.

He still does not come to know,
however, that Antonio is the father.

He just knows that Antonio knows
about it at this condition, as in,
and is in cahoots with her.

Act three begins,
and considerable time has passed again
between Act two and act three because
we come to know that the Duchess has
given birth to two more children.

In the interim,
nobody knows the Duchess is married,
and therefore she has a very
ill reputation even among her,
even among the general public of Malfi,
Ferdinant has come to Malfi,
and he has started behaving very

erratically and is always the
state of frenzy,
because obviously Pazzola has told
him what has happened through a
letter and now he hates his sister
and he wants to take some measure.

To attack her and to hurt her.

The Duchess tries to present her
perspective and tries to tell
about her marriage.

He also she also tries to tell him
that her children are not born out of
wedlock and that there is indeed a husband.

However, Ferdina never allows her to speak.

Instead he cancer a knife and
tells her to cut off her towns,
which may never reveal the name
of her husband.

Because if she does so,
then Fortnite is sure to kill him.

Fearing the worst,

the Duchess sends Antonio do on Ghana.

Now she cannot do it just like that because

this will again aroused the suspicion of

her subjects as well as the courtiers.

So she falsely accuses Antonio of

manipulating her accounts as a steward

and therefore banishes him to uncon up.

Now all the other courtiers stand

up with the Duchess because

they just want to flatter her,

but basola doesn't do so he stands

up for Antonio's integrity.

Now because of this,

the Duchess is misled into believing

that Pasola is a good friend of Antonio.

And she ends up telling the truth

about their marriage and her pregnancy

to Basola Mazzola's loyalty is stone.

He wants to be with the Duchess.

But at the same time,

in his greed for a reward,

he ends up telling all this

to Ferdinand and the Cardinal.

I just sent her children and.

Carriola plan to go and meet Ferdinand in.

I'm gonna and the Duchess does this on

the pretext of going on a pilgrimage,

but because Basola has already told

the Cardinal and Ferdinand about this,

the Cardinal and Ferdinand are well

prepared to thwart the plans of the Duchess.

The Cardinal loses his power to take

the dukedom of the duchesses hand so

she is robbed of her dukedom, and.

The prepared to ambush the entire group,

however,

just before that they sent a letter

to Antonio asking him to come and

meet them in order to reconcile.

The Duchess reads between the

lines and realizes that this is no

attempted reconciliation,

and that in fact this is a letter of threat.

Therefore she tells Antonio to take

her elder son and go to Milan,

and that she's going to meet him later.

Antonio goes away with the first child

but before the Duchess can follow him,

she heard the rest of her children

and Cariola all apprehended that

is arrested by the Cardinal and

Ferdinand's men and put into prison.

Here begins at four at 4 is

replete with cruel acts.

The Duchess is put in prison,

but we're told that she

bears her trauma very nobly.

This irritates Ferdinand

further and he tries to.

This irritates Volting and further,

and he tries to make sure that

the Duchess suffers a lot.

He does this by various means.

First of all he does will have to

put off the lights and he takes.

He goes into the prison and offers

a severed hand to the judges.

Secondly,

he shows her Rob corses of Antonio

and her eldest child hurt her and

tells her that they're all dead.

Have a vote.

This is just a trick because they're

wax statues and Ferdinand has in

reality not killed any of them.

This is just a means of torturing the judges.

The judges however falls for the

trick and she feels that her

entire family is dead and therefore

only despite right now is to die

herself and reunite with her

family in Heaven.

Ferdinand's not satisfied,

but with this as well,

therefore he sends some people

whom he refers to as quote,

unquote madman, to torture her.

Then he sends the executioners

suits Triangulator and kill her.

The Duchess dies nobly,

knowing that all her family is dead,

so she has no purpose to live.

Her children and Carriola care 2.

Vitamin comes in to see the corpses

of everyone whom he has just executed,

but he remains largely unmoved at the

sight of Caryonah and the dead children.

But the site of the office sisters

cops completely shatters him.

He berates Basola for carrying out his

orders and he acts in a very frenzied state.

So Basola now knows that voting is

not going to give him any reward,

and he's disappointed in himself

for carrying out these acts.

He also realises that the Duchess
is still alive and therefore before
she departs he goes and he tells her
that her husband is alive so that
touches dies in the knowledge that at
least her loved one is still alive.

We now come to the last ad.

The plot here ships to Milan.

Antonio is unaware of the duchesses death.

Ferdinant has returned from Milan

and behaves very erratically because

of a quote unquote sickness.

We're told later that he suffers

from lycanthrope.

Yeah, which is, you know,

a kind of a suffering where the

patient believes that he is a Wolf

and therefore digs up graves at night.

That is what the doctors tell the Cardinal.

Missoula is also here and he tries to

bribe Julia the gardener's mistress

in extracting a confession from
Cardinal and trying to see what
role the Cardinal has to play in
all the events that have that have.

In all the events that
have been carried forth.

Julia manages to do so.

She manages to extract a confession

from the Cardinal and Cardinal

confesses that it was indeed

his idea to kill the touches,

but he swears her into secrecy

before Julia can act any further,

the Cardinal in his typical cold,

cruel manner manages to kill Julia as well,

but Zola, who's been in hiding

and is a witness to all this,

comes out and demands his

reward from the Cardinal.

The Cardinal tells him

that he will reward him.

If Mazzola helps him in killing

Antonio and disposing of the Duchess,

sorry the Cardinal tells him that

she that he will reward him only if

Basola helps him in killing Antonio

and disposing of Julie's body.

Basola have ever decides to

find Antonio and protect him and

also avenged the Duchess death.

Meanwhile,

Antonio decides to go to the

Cardinals chamber and reconcile and

resolve the matter once and for all.

Let me remind you that he still

does not know of the Duchess death.

The Cardinal, on the other hand,

because he wants to dispose of Julius Body,

tells all the courtiers to stay away from.

This chamber and he also tells them

that no matter how much of noise you hear,

please do not come to the Chamber

because that having too many people
around will disturb Ferdinand.

Now it so happens that Basola comes
in and he comes to know that the
Cardinal plans to kill him as well.

So Basola says that before the Cardinal
takes any measures to kill him,
but Zola is going to kill
the Cardinal instead,
so he hides in the Cardinal's chamber.

Just then,

Antonio tries to enter the Cardinal's chamber,
because he wants to resolve the matter,
but Pazzola thinks that there are
some men who have been sent to kill
him and therefore he accidentally
stabs Antonio and realises.

His mistake only later he repents.

The Act immediately and he also
tells Antonio of the Duchess's death,
just in the Cardinal enters he

realizes what is going on and he starts

crying for help because Pazzola,

mad with anger and frustration starts

to attack the Cardinal as well.

The Cardinal cries out for help,

but as he is instructed his courtiers

not to come near the chamber,

none of them come to his rescue.

Instead,

Ferdinant enters in his erratic state and.

Without really comprehending

the entire situation,

he attacks both the Cardinal as well

as Basola Mazzola in some killing.

Cardinal Ferdinand attacks

muscle and kills him,

but before doing so Bosola

also attacks Ferdinant,

and all three of them died

before Basola departs.

He tells the courtiers who have

come now listening to all the
commotion that has taken place.

He tells them that the Duchess
has been cleared very unjustly,

and that the brothers have
undertaken a series of cruel acts.

And they have paid for the same and that he
has avenged. The Duchess is dead.

The courtiers are very saddened by
the way the events have unfolded,

and the only surviving member of the
judges family now is her first child,

so they decide to raise and very nobly
in the honor of his Noble parents.

With this, the plea comes to an end.

As you can see,

the play is divided in five acts.

The Duchess of Malfi is an extremely action
oriented play and several major events

happen in the plane as a revenge tragedy.

It ends with the death of most

of its central characters,
but with a flicker of hope in the
first child of the Duchess was
the only surviving member,
so we can hope for a better future,
at least for him.

These are the references.

Thank you.