

Sample Italian Lecture- Worksheet

Analysing visual and verbal texts: Medieval visions of vice and virtue in Giotto's Arena Chapel in Padova and Dante's *Comedy*

Questions to ask yourself when seeking to analyse verbal or visual texts:

- What do I know about the context?
- How do I engage with the text/image?
- What in the text/image prompts me to engage in the way that I do?
- Start with formal elements and allow them to lead

Things to look for in poetry:

- narrative
- action
- colour/tone
- structure/space
- sound
- rhythm
- rhyme
- special effects
- line/visuality

Things to look for in visual art:

- Colour
- Line
- Space
- Light
- the human figure
- Action
- Narrative
- Landscape
- Architecture

Here's a resource with more information on how to analyse paintings:

<https://ahc.leeds.ac.uk/analysing-paintings>

Go to <https://digitaldante.columbia.edu/dante/divine-comedy/>

and click on the 'Text and Translations' tab. Try working through a section of 12 lines with your list of things to look for. Then ask yourself the questions at the top of the worksheet.

Go to <https://www.wga.hu/>

and look at Giotto's frescos in the Scrovegni/Arena Chapel. Choose some frescos and try out your list of things to look for. Then ask yourself the questions at the top of the worksheet.