

Name: _____

Miss Skirtich

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English 10: World Literature

Writing Prompt for *The Song at the Scaffold*

Reflecting on The Song at the Scaffold, consider how Blanche's obstinate "yes" is a symbolism of piety and obedience in the face of terror during the French Revolution and Reign of Terror. Yet, Blanche abandons the convent and seemingly, Christ, in her moments of terror midway through the novel. At the end of the story, Blanche resurfaces in the crowd as the other sixteen Carmelite nuns are about to be executed at the guillotine. How does Blanche make a comeback and surrender herself to Christ? In your opinion, what is her reasoning for coming back to join the sisters in martyrdom? Using at least 3 pieces of textual evidence, compose at least a one page response to justify your claim.

Compose your response on a OneDrive document, using the following guidelines to help you compose a great response:

- a. **Use 12pt. Times New Roman font, 1" margins throughout the entire document, double space the body of your paper (leave the MLA heading and title in single space). The MLA heading is on the top here!**
- b. **When talking about characters, always use PRESENT TENSE instead of past tense. Since characters live on forever in books and plays, we refer to them in present, even if they die in the text.**

Example: When Alison comes to see Nicholas, she **kisses** him because she loves him and not Absalon.

- c. **Only use 3rd person voice when speaking.** This means to never use 1st person or 2nd person POV. That means no **I, you, we, us**. Use **he, she, it, they, the reader** instead.

Example: Instead of "**We** learn about The Miller's drunkenness in the story" say "**The reader** learns about The Miller's drunkenness in the story."

- d. **Limit your use of TO BE verbs.** These verbs are helping verbs that attach themselves to other active verbs and water down the meaning of your sentences. Make your verbs more active and help to illustrate your point by eliminating these pesky words.

Caution: **NEVER** change words inside of quotes. As soon as you do that, it's no longer a quote.

Example: Instead of saying, "Absalon and Alison **are fighting** throughout the story" say instead, "Absalon and Alison **fight** throughout the story."