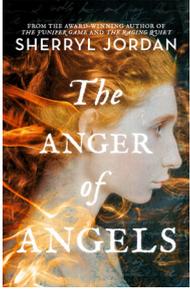




# Walker Books Classroom Ideas



## The Anger of Angels

By Sherryl Jordan  
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\*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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## Outline:

*“Words hold a terrible power ... A word can break a heart, or give it a reason to live. A word can grant freedom or life, or begin a war – or end one.”*

In a world where it is a crime to speak against injustice, a jester dares to perform a play that enrages a powerful tyrant prince. The jester’s daughter, Giovanna, must journey into the heart of danger to turn back the terrible consequences unleashed by her father’s words – and becomes entangled in a treacherous plot to overthrow the prince. She alone holds a secret which, if made public, will end the prince’s reign and liberate his oppressed

## Author Information:

Sherryl Jordan is an award-winning New Zealand writer who has been publishing books for children and young adults for over 20 years. Her work has been translated into several languages. *The Anger of Angels*, her first book with Walker, is an alternate history/fantasy YA that explores the power of words.

## How to Use These Notes:

This story works on many levels. The suggested activities are therefore for a wide age and ability range. Please select accordingly.

### These notes are for:

- Secondary
- Ages 13+

### Key Learning Areas:

- English

### Example of:

- YA Fiction

### Themes/Ideas:

- Freedom of Speech
- Gender Roles
- Revenge
- Bravery



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## Discussion Questions and Activities:

### English

Based on the cover and title, what do you think this story is about? How do you think it will begin/end? Revisit your answer when you've completed the book. Was your answer correct?

What location and time period may Sherry Jordan used as inspiration for the setting of this story?

Discuss the historical fantasy genre. What are some tropes or rules of the genre? Name some examples of books or films that are indicative of the genre. As a historical fantasy, how does *The Anger of Angels* fit in this genre? How does it subvert the genre?

What are the themes in this novel? As a class or in small groups identify and list the themes. Individually write a statement of belief about each theme.

Discuss a particular episode in the story that you remember most. What themes does it touch on? Why do you think it remains so clear to you?

In small groups, explain how Giovanna demonstrates the following character traits in the novel:

- Resourcefulness
- Courage
- Persistence
- Compassion
- Resilience

How does Giovanna develop as a character over the course of the novel? Identify specific points in the book that signal growth or change, then present these on a timeline.

What is the role of women in the time and place this novel is set? How does this expected role affect Giovanna? How does she break the mold of what is expected of her?

Supernatural elements are introduced to the story with the inclusion of Raffaele's visions and Shai-Nefer's mindreading and ability to mentally control others. How do the supernatural themes affect the story? How might the story have been different without them?

Raffaele and Giovanna argue about freedom of speech. Giovanna believes that people should not have the right to say whatever they choose as it may result in people being hurt, whereas Raffaele believes that freedom of speech should be protected at all costs. Have a class discussion or debate about this issue as it applies to *The Anger of Angels* and to our modern world.

*"Words hold a terrible power ... A word can break a heart, or give it a reason to live. A word can grant freedom or life, or begin a war – or end one."* (p 202)  
Identify key moments in *Anger of Angels* where a character's choice to speak or remain silent has a dramatic impact. How would the novel have been different if the character had made a different choice?

Discuss the concepts of guilt and responsibility in *The Anger of Angels*. Is Ennio responsible for antagonising the prince, which led to the murder of innocent farmers? Or is the prince responsible for his own actions, regardless of what people say to him/about him?

What is the Inquisition? How does its inclusion in this story contribute to your understanding of the social and political climate of the setting?

Create a timeline of Giovanna and Raffaele's relationship, using evidence from the text to demonstrate key moments. Discuss how Raffaele symbolises bravery and selflessness, for example when he rescues Ignazio from the fallen tree despite Ignazio insulting him and how Raffaele speaks out against social and religious norms of the time despite the risk of being labelled a heretic.

By comparing the cities of Goretti and Valenzio, discuss how this novel explores the idea that in the wrong hands, power corrupts. How does the representation of these cities mirror the modern world?

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