Name Class Date

009-1

The brilliant growth of the arts during the Renaissance depended greatly on the sup-  
port and the fortunes of wealthy patrons, to whom it brought prestige. One of the  
most famous Renaissance patrons and collectors was Isabella d’Este, who was also  
influential in politics. ♦ *As you read, think of how the arts are supported today. Then, on a  
separate sheet of paper, answer the questions that follow.*

**Isabella d’Este (1474–1539)**

If you look through a book of Renaissance art,  
you are likely to see a portrait of Isabella  
d’Este. She was one of the super-  
stars—the “rich and famous”—of  
her time. The artists Leonardo da  
Vinci and Titian both painted her  
portrait. One diplomat called her  
“the First Lady of the world.”  
Others admired both her brilliant  
mind and her personal grace and  
charm.

Isabella’s own family, the  
d’Estes, ruled the Italian state of  
Ferrara. Their palace was filled with  
fine paintings and tapestries, and  
they enjoyed putting on elaborate  
plays, with musicians and clowns, in the  
palace courtyard. Isabella learned to speak and  
write Latin, which was not only the language  
of the Church and diplomacy, but also neces-  
sary to enjoy Latin classics such as the *Aeneid.*

Like most daughters in noble families, both  
Isabella and her sister, Beatrice, were formally  
engaged as children: Isabella to Gianfrancesco  
Gonzaga, whose family ruled Mantua, and  
Beatrice to the son of the powerful Sforzas of  
Milan. Isabella and Gianfrancesco were mar-  
ried in a lavish wedding when she was 16.

Gianfrancesco was a skillful soldier and,  
besides leading his own state of Mantua, was  
captain of the Venetian army. The Italian city-states fought numerous small wars and made  
foreign alliances to ensure their independence.  
Gianfrancesco was often away at  
war, leaving Isabella to govern  
Mantua.

In spite of the wars, court life in  
Renaissance Italy was luxurious.  
Courtiers had leisure time for  
games—chess, cards, charades—  
and dancing. Isabella spent huge  
amounts of money on festive enter-  
tainments at court and on mainte-  
nance of the palace, with its many  
servants and horses. She bought  
extravagant clothes, furs, and jew-  
elry, setting styles throughout  
Europe.

Neglected by her husband, Isabella deter-  
mined to outshine him in politics and as an  
art patron. She had grown up with great art  
and became a collector. She commissioned  
works by painters, sculptors, and jewelers.  
The famous printer Aldus Manutius printed  
special editions of books for her. She bought  
ancient Greek and Roman art.

Isabella also played skillfully in the com-  
plex politics of the time. She kept Mantua  
neutral and independent. After Gianfrancesco  
died in 1519, she ruled the state, later handing  
it over to her son.

ques

**1.** What was Isabella d’Este’s family back-  
ground and her position in Italian society?

**2.** What part did Isabella d’Este play in the  
realm of Renaissance art?

**3. Determine Relevance** Why was it important  
to be able to read, write, and speak Latin  
during the Renaissance?

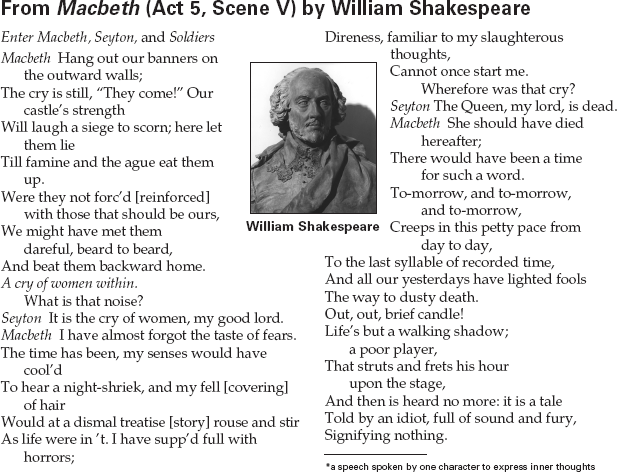
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**9**

Name Class Date

11-1

William Shakespeare (1564–1616) is widely considered to be one of the greatest English writers of  
all time. His plays and poems have fascinated readers for almost four centuries. Among his works  
are his tragedies, such as *Hamlet, King Lear, Othello,* and *Macbeth. Macbeth* tells the story of the title  
character, a medieval Scottish lord driven by greed and ambition. In his desire to gain more  
power, he is persuaded by his wife to murder the king of Scotland and seize the throne.  
Macbeth’s enemies have now surrounded his castle and it appears that his end is near. He has just  
heard that his wife has gone insane from guilt over this crime and committed suicide. Macbeth’s  
reaction to this news is expressed below in one of the most famous soliloquies\* in all of  
Shakespeare’s plays. ♦*As you read, think about how Shakespeare used carefully chosen words to express  
Macbeth’s thoughts and feelings. Then, on a separate sheet of paper, answer the questions that follow.*



ques

**1.** To what does Macbeth compare life?

**2. Summarize** Using everyday language, para-  
phrase Macbeth’s soliloquy about death at  
the end of the excerpt

**3. Synthesize Information** Shakespeare chose  
his words carefully to convey Macbeth’s  
thoughts and feelings to people watching the  
play. What words does Shakespeare use to  
reveal Macbeth’s fears?

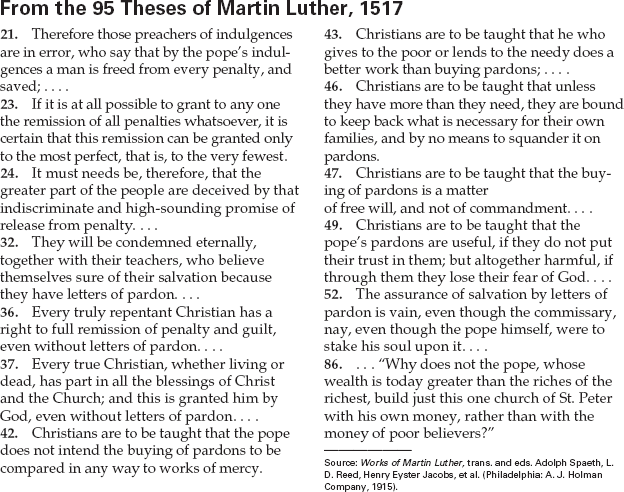
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**11**

Name Class Date

13-1

Historians date the beginning of the Protestant Reformation to the moment when Martin Luther  
wrote a public letter to Archbishop Albrecht of Mainz. The letter, which became known as  
Luther’s 95 Theses, included a list of arguments against the Church’s practice of selling indul-  
gences. While the Church had made indulgences available for centuries, the practice had  
increased as papal finances worsened. Luther posted the 95 Theses on the door of a church in  
Wittenberg, Germany, in 1517. ♦ *As you read, think about how people of Luther’s time may have reacted  
to his ideas. Then, on a separate sheet of paper, answer the questions that follow.*



ques

**1.** What is Luther’s attitude toward taking care  
of the poor?

**2. Recognize Sufficient Evidence** What evi-  
dence can you find that Germans of the time  
were angry because Church leaders forced  
them to buy indulgences?

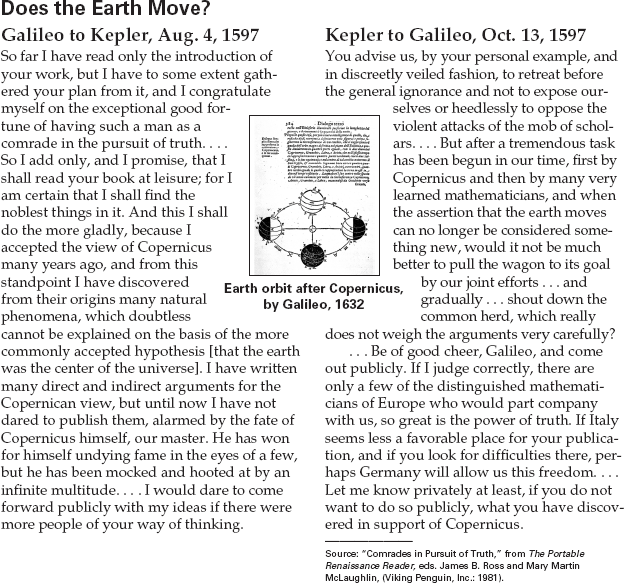
**3. Activity** Write a first-person journal entry  
about Luther’s theses, as though you were a  
German Christian in 1517. Include your view  
of his arguments and your impressions about  
the effects Luther’s actions will have on the  
Church.

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Name Class Date

10-1

Modern science got its start in the Scientific Revolution of the 1500s and 1600s. One idea that  
caused great controversy was Copernicus’s model of a sun-centered universe. Here two scien-  
tists, Galileo Galilei and Johannes Kepler, correspond about the dangers of discussing this the-  
ory in public. ♦ As *you read, think about the importance of public opinion. Then, on a separate sheet of  
paper, answer the questions that follow.*



ques

**1.** Why is Galileo reluctant to publish his ideas  
about Copernicus’s theory?

**2.** What does Kepler suggest as an alternative  
to publishing in Italy?

**3. Make Comparisons** Do you think that scien-  
tists today are as worried about the reactions  
from the public as Galileo and Kepler were?  
Support your opinion with examples.

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**10**