

DeAnna Howard
Thea 250
Journal 1
Medea vs. Mojada

1. What did you notice in your reading of Medea that informed your understanding of Mojada?

I found that in *Mojada* I was waiting to see how everything would play out, waiting to hit all the key points of the story. *Mojada* gave more insight to Medea & Jason's relationship and you don't get that in *Madea*, instead it starts en media res and you get a bit of information before it starts. While reading *Mojada* I felt sorry for Medea for all of the play, I felt like Jason loved her, but then I realized just because they were together and had a kid didn't mean that he loved her. Especially because he left her so easily without much remorse, it was all about what he wanted and how he could get ahead. She was a tool to him, he used her as a safe place in *Mojada* as well as in *Madea* he used her to help him capture the golden fleece. Once Medea stopped being useful he moved on, one of the big questions i've had since I first read *Madea* was if Jason cared. Jason was her everything, she left her home in both plays and killed her brother for him and in the end he left her for more power. Then when Medea kills Acon and poisons Pilar it feels more like Medea trying to make Jason feel just as bad as she does knowing he betrayed her instead of an evil act like it does in *Madea*. She's showing him just how deep her love for him ran, and how big of a mistake he made. It makes me feel that Pilar and Jason are the true villains in this story and Medea needed them to feel her loss. So I think that reading *Mojada* allowed me to understand Medea in *Madea* a lot more. Though her actions are the same, the way they lead up is what gave me the change of heart. It helped me to decide whether Jason really loved her, I think that he didn't. I think she was there for him and he used her until he didn't need to anymore.

2. What did you notice in your reading of Mojada that informed your understanding of Medea?

When reading *Madea* I found myself wishing it read as easily as *Mojada*. Though i've already read *Madea* before, because it's a greek tragedy it's very dramatic, more so than *Mojada*. There is a lot of extra that is involved to tell the story ie the chorus, the nurse, the tutor etc. One thing I hate that I felt and noticed while reading *Madea* is that because we have more time to hear Medea out and see her in her grief it changes the way I see her. In *Mojada* it all happens so quickly all at the same time and right then Medea reacts. You can see how blindsided she was, me as the reader felt blindsided and I felt so sorry for her. In *Madea* she goes on and on about how hurt she is and all the things she's done for Jason, we see her plot her revenge and we see her lie to Creon about her intentions. We see all of that and then when she kills her children and Jason's wife she seems evil, she lets the rage take over her. *Mojada* makes Medea seem more human, it makes her pain more understandable, it makes her actions less horrible and it makes me question Medea less about killing her own child. It felt a bit more sudden in *Mojada* because

from her actions you didn't see it coming. Reading *Madea* really made me pay attention to the way *Mojada* was written, the changes between the two and how that changed the way I felt about *Madea* generally. Certain details in *Madea* weren't explained as much so while reading it I had a similar situation in juxtaposition so that I could understand better. I think that reading both *Madea* and *Mojada* helped me to answer and better understand the same things, for reading *Madea* it helped me to come to terms with *Madea* killing her own child. When putting together the different sides of each play together for specific scenarios I was offered clarity.