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Student Written Responses to *Medea* and *Mojada*

Introduction to Scenic Design- Professor Schweikardt

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

Because I read *Medea* before *Mojada*, I was able to predict the major plot points of the show and what characters in *Mojada* would relate to characters in *Medea*. The characters of Medea and Jason had the same names in both plays, so I assumed they would follow the same or a similar path. Medea and Jason were also married in both plays, so I could infer that he would leave her for another powerful woman. When the character of Pilar was introduced, I had a suspicion that she would fulfill the modern-day role of the king's daughter from *Medea*. Acan, Medea and Jason's son in *Mojada*, was, to my knowledge, meant to be the equivalent of Medea and Jason's sons in *Medea*. The one character from *Mojada* that I can't relate to one *Medea* character is Tita. In some aspects, she represents the Nurse who gives Medea advice. But, in other cases, she can also represent the Messenger who protects Medea after she commits her bad deeds. Nonetheless, reading *Medea* helped me better identify characters and plot points that were also existent in *Mojada*.

Despite the predictability of *Mojada* after reading *Medea*, I was still shocked when Medea killed her son and Pilar and when Jason left Medea. After spending a lot of time thinking about why this is, I've only come to one conclusion- good playwriting. Although I knew what events were supposed to happen at the end of the play when I began reading *Mojada*, I was still taken aback when they actually occurred. Because I was so immersed in the play, I had forgotten what I had read and learned in *Medea*. Not everyone can do this, so I applaud Luis Alfaro for taking a classic story and reimagining it into such an amazing and captivating play.

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

As a whole, I think reading *Mojada* greatly helped my understanding of *Medea*. I personally am not the biggest fan of old literature, and I don't always understand everything that happens in a play written in that language. Normally I read an online summary of the show so I am able to have an opinion on it (other than "I didn't like it because I couldn't understand it"), but since *Medea* and *Mojada* are so closely tied, this wasn't necessary. I read *Medea* first, and I'm glad I did. While I was reading *Mojada*, I was able to notice the general trends of both plays while also seeing smaller details that help advance the plot.

Diving into more specifics about the play, I think the short, aggressive lines exchanged between Medea and Jason in *Mojada* helped me better sympathize with each character. From my understanding, this conversation was meant to mimic the conversation held between Medea and Jason in *Medea* in which he tells her he's marrying the king's daughter to better care for their children. I knew this was supposed to be an emotional piece of dialogue, but I felt as though reading long soliloquies defeated the purpose; it almost took away all of the anger and spite felt between the

characters. In *Mojada*, on the other hand, the short, choppy jabs they took at each other conveyed the anger and despisement that I believe was meant to exist within the scene.

I also think that including Medea and Jason's child in *Mojada* helped me better understand *Medea* better. By giving him lines and seeing how the new wife of Jason affects him directly, I was able to grasp how Medea and Jason's sons must have felt in *Medea*, despite the fact that we never directly see them and the king's daughter interact.