

**Aristophanes, *Frogs***

Study Questions

For individual scenes:

Question 1: What stage directions need to be included here?

Question 2: What scenery is likely to be visible during this scene? What does the skene represent? Where does the doorway lead?

Question 3: How many actors are on stage? When do they enter and leave the orchestra? Are there likely to be any silent actors or stagehands visible?

Question 4: What would the costumes and masks add to the performance of this scene?

Question 5: How might an actor use their body and voice in this scene?

Question 6: What types of humour are found in this scene? What is the balance between visual comedy, physical comedy, satire, parody and scatological or sexual humour?

Question 7: At which points in the scene is the audience likely to laugh?

For the play as a whole:

Question 1: To what extent is *Frogs* a play of two separate halves? What ideas unify or connect the two halves of the play?

Question 2: How serious is the political advice in the parabasis?

Question 3: How does Aristophanes use gods and religious practices within the play?

Question 4: What role does theatre and drama play in *Frogs*? Is there a serious point behind the extended literary criticism of the second half?

Question 5: Why is Tragedy the subject of a comedy? What is the relationship between Comedy and Tragedy in *Frogs*?

Question 6: To what extent do you consider *Frogs* to be a useful source for understanding Athenian society and politics? How much reality is to be found in the fantasy?

Question 7: Why do you think *Frogs* was awarded a second performance?