

The Tragical History of the Life And Death of Doctor Faustus
by Christopher Marlowe

Connections: Place a check in the first column for statements with which you agree and place a check in the second column for statements with which the author of this play would agree. Choose one statement to develop into an essay both in terms of the play and also in terms of your own personal experiences.

Statements	MINE	HIS
1. The saddest words of tongue and pen are these: it might have been.		
2. Every action contains its consequence.		
3. All that glitters is not gold.		
4. There is an intrinsic nature in things that cannot be violated.		
5. Power released works where it will.		
6. A little learning is a dangerous thing.		
7. There are more things in heaven and on earth than have been dreamt of.		
8. The devil is a good psychologist.		
9. Certain tendencies of human nature make a devil's work easy.		
10. Any evil act contains the seeds of destruction.		
11. A devil's best strategy would be to appear innocuous, that is, harmless.		
12. Literature is a form of control over the forces of life.		
13. Literature is man's attempt to make sense of his outer and inner experiences.		
14. A choice is significant in porportion to its finality.		

The Admiral's Men performed Doctor Faustus 24 times in the three years between October 1594 and October 1597. On 22 November 1602, the diary of Philip Henslowe recorded a £4 payment to Samuel Rowley and William Bird for additions to the play, which suggests a revival soon after that date. [3]. The powerful effect of the early productions is indicated by the legends that quickly accrued around them. In the introductory soliloquy, Faustus begins by pondering the fate of his life and what he wants his career to be, he ends his soliloquy with the solution and decision to give his soul to the devil. Similarly in the closing soliloquy, Faustus begins pondering, and finally comes to terms with the fate he created for himself.