

Prompt 5.7 - The Hamilton Tragedy

Warm-up: What is a tragedy? What is a story that you know of that is very tragic?

Video: Alexander Hamilton https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E8_ARd4oKiI
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZPrAKuOBWzw>

Reading: For each paragraph, take turns reading out loud and deciding what your group highlights.

Lecture: Then, listen to Mr Rowe and write a brief summary of what happened to the side.

Act 1 - The Vow

| Highlight | Brief Summary |
|--|---------------|
| Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton originally met each other during the American Revolution. They were both soldiers. Burr saved Hamilton's life during the battle of Brooklyn. Washington never honored Burr for his actions. This caused Burr to hold a grudge against Washington and to become jealous of Hamilton for being Washington's "adopted son." Burr enviously vowed to become president that day. He wanted the power of Washington and for everyone to respect him no matter what. | |
| Hamilton , Washington's right-hand-man, became the Secretary of Treasury. Jefferson became the Secretary of State and the two immediately began a rivalry as leaders of their new political parties. Hamilton was a Federalist and Jefferson was a Republican. Burr wanted to be famous also so he befriended Hamilton. One day Hamilton told Burr that he was worried about taking too much power for the government. Burr, a Republican, replied with "great souls care little about such things." Hamilton immediately became frightened of Burr's ambition. From that point forward, both Hamilton and Jefferson tried to keep Burr away. | |
| Burr then ran in a New York election against Hamilton's father-in-law, Philip , and won. Hamilton was furious. Not only did Burr defeat his father-in-law, but he used his new position to make it harder for Hamilton to pass laws. Hamilton then got worse news. His wife miscarried their baby. While he stayed home to take care of her, Washington retired and John Adams decided to run for president instead of him. | |
| During the election of 1796, Burr ran against John Adams and Thomas Jefferson . He thought that Jefferson would have been no match for him since he was a veteran. Jefferson, however, became Vice President to John Adams with the second most votes. Once again, Burr was left out. Burr began to dislike Jefferson also, even while in the same political party. | |
| What did Burr, Jefferson, and Hamilton all think about each other? Why? <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> | |

| Highlight | Brief Summary |
|--|---------------|
| <p>Hamilton is approached by a woman, Maria, while his wife, Eliza, is away on vacation. Maria claims that she is in desperate need of money so Hamilton goes to the bank to help her. When he walks her home, she asks for him to stay. The affair begins but little does Hamilton know that this is a trap. Maria's husband sends Hamilton a letter, threatening to tell the news about the affair unless Hamilton sends him money every month. Hamilton reluctantly agrees to save his marriage and reputation.</p> | |
| <p>One day, Maria's husband, James, was arrested. In order to decrease his sentence, he claimed that he had information proving Hamilton was corruptly using public money. James Monroe, a close friend of Jefferson, confronted Hamilton about this. Hamilton gave letters proving that he had not used public money and was only trying to cover up the affair. Monroe promised to keep it a secret and then immediately told Jefferson. Jefferson decided to print the letters, accusing Hamilton of having an affair AND of taking public money, so that Hamilton couldn't run for president.</p> | |
| <p>Hamilton's wife, Eliza, did not believe the accusations. Hamilton accused Monroe of being a liar and challenged him to a duel. When the two arrived at the duel site they raised their guns at each other but decided not to shoot. Hamilton went home and came clean to his wife. He thought the only way to convince the people that he did not use public money was to tell the world about the affair. Hamilton released a detailed account of the affair to prove that he was not using public money to enrich himself.</p> | |
| <p>Hamilton's career and personal life suffered dramatically. His wife, Eliza, was humiliated in the press. His son, Philip, was made fun of at school and challenged a bully to a duel defending his father's honor. At the duel, Philip was shot and killed. Hamilton's daughter, Angelica, suffered a permanent mental breakdown from the humiliation and death of her brother. Due to the scandal, Hamilton got into bitter arguments with President John Adams over control of the Federalist Party. Jefferson's plan to eliminate his competition for the next presidential election worked.</p> | |
| <p>Who is more to blame, Jefferson and his party or Hamilton's betrayal of his wife?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> | |

Act 3 - For Country

| Highlight | Brief Summary |
|---|---------------|
| <p>In the election of 1800, the rules which decided the Vice President changed. Electors got two votes, one to be used for President and one to be used for Vice President. This way, the candidates with the top most votes would always be from the same party. The Republican candidates were Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr. The Federalists were John Adams and Charles Pinckney. Hamilton was too unpopular to run due to the affair. John Adams was worried. The Federalists were unpopular not only because of Hamilton, but also due to the XYZ Affair and Sedition Acts.</p> | |
| <p>When results came in, Republicans had won. However, Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr tied. When this happens, the House of Representatives must break the tie. Interestingly enough, the House was still controlled by Federalists. Federalists wanted to vote for Burr simply because they wanted to hurt the Republican party. Hamilton, still being influential among Federalists, had a tough decision to make. He could side with his party and help Burr, the man who didn't care about the country, or help Jefferson, his bitter rival who ruined his career and family. Hamilton chose his country; he convinced the House to elect Jefferson. He wrote "Jefferson is in every view less dangerous than Burr. [When all is said and done. Jefferson has beliefs. Burr has none]." Burr narrowly lost the Presidential election.</p> | |
| <p>After Jefferson became president, Burr decided to run as the New York governor but, again, Hamilton attacked and discredited Burr which cost him that election too. Burr, furious at Hamilton, challenged him to a duel which Hamilton gladly accepted. They dueled on the same field that Hamilton's son was killed several years before. In the last moment, Hamilton fired off to the side, away from Burr. Burr then raised his pistol and killed Alexander Hamilton. Hamilton's family was saddened beyond belief and were left in debt without Hamilton to provide for them.</p> | |
| <p>Aaron Burr's political career ended almost immediately by killing the great Alexander Hamilton. Burr would eventually be arrested on charges of treason (that were later dropped) for attempting to conspire with Great Britain and Spain in creating a nation just west of the United States. He would forever be remembered as a villain in the slaying of a great man.</p> | |
| <p>What does choosing Jefferson over Burr say about Hamilton's character? Explain.</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> | |

Cooldown: Based on what we learned in 5.5, 5.6, & 5.7, do parties cause people to make bad decisions?

The Hamilton Tragedy Play

Directions: Together we will perform the Hamilton Tragedy play! There are 3 Acts, each with 4 scenes. Each group will be responsible for writing and performing at least two scenes. Videos are acceptable.

Screenwriting: First, your group must write the script! Do the following in order:

- 1) Which Scenes are we doing?

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Act _____ | Scene _____ | Act _____ | Scene _____ |
|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|

- 2) Determine which **roles** need to be in your scenes. You may need a narrator.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| - | - | - |
| - | - | - |

- 3) Determine the major **plot** points (events) that need to occur

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

- 4) Write the **dialogue** of your characters. Be sure to include the names of the people they are speaking to as often as possible! Everyone must perform.
- 5) Write the **emotions** in parentheses so the actors know how to act.
- 6) Write the **actions** for the **actors** in italics in between the dialogue to help the actors.
- 7) Write the **directions** for the **audience** to make sounds in bold and italics.

Example: See the example script below. The Font is 12 pt Courier New.

Act #, Scene #

Names

Batman (angrily): Joker, tell me where you hid the kittens!

Batman slams his fist down on a desk.

Joker (laughing): You'll never find them Batman, they're mine!

Audience Gasps

Robin (surprised) : Batman look! There they are!

5.7 The Hamilton Tragedy

Warm-up:

What is a tragedy?
Is it happy or sad?

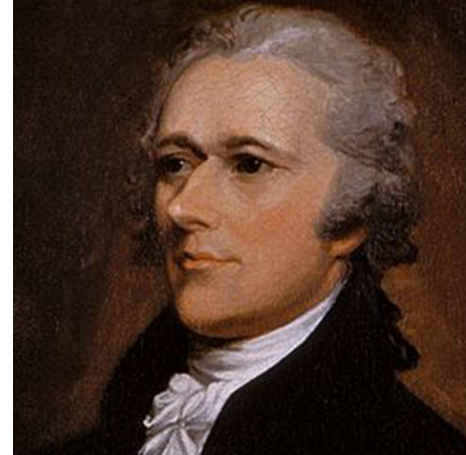
What is a tragic story that you know?
What happened?



Reading Directions

- 1) Take turns **reading** the scenes in each Act out loud
- 2) After each paragraph **Highlight** and write a **brief summary** in the column
- 3) **Answer** the question on the bottom

Last Day for Cooperation & Participation points!



Act 1 Scene 1



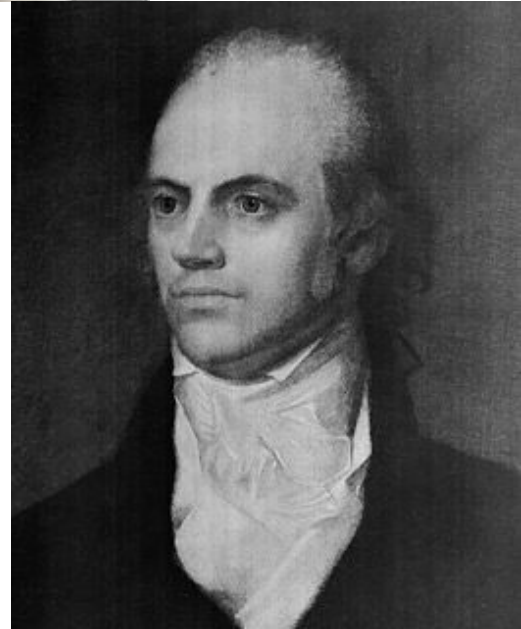
Burr saves Hamilton
but Washington
doesn't honor him.
Burr vows for power.



Act 1 Scene 2



Parties are born and Burr wants in. His ambition frightens Hamilton.



Act 1 Scene 3



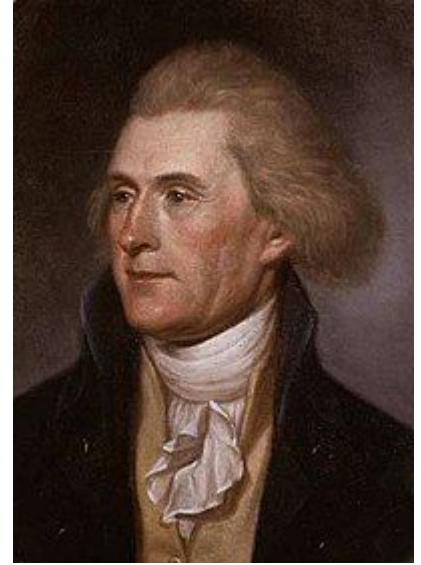
Burr wins a small election against Hamilton's father-in-law.



Act 1 Scene 4



In the election of
1796, Adams wins
and Jefferson is VP.
Burr loses.



Act 2

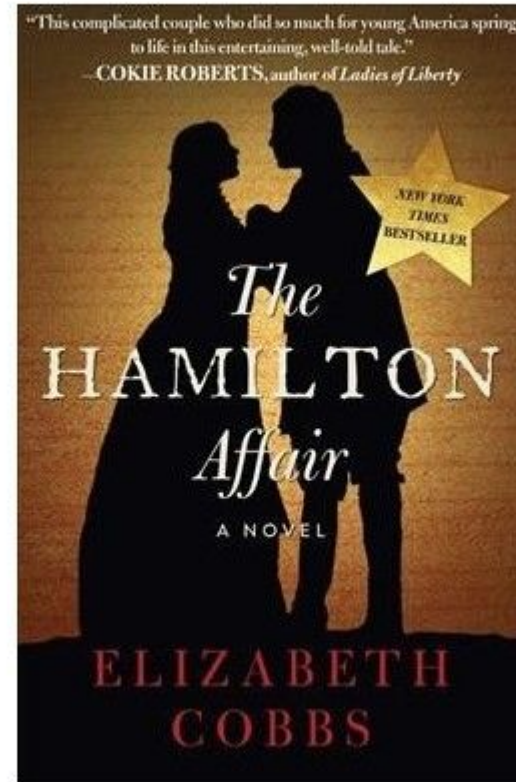
10:00



Act 2 Scene 1



Hamilton begins an affair while his wife is away.



Act 2 Scene 2



Jefferson tells the world about Hamilton's affair.



Act 2 Scene 3



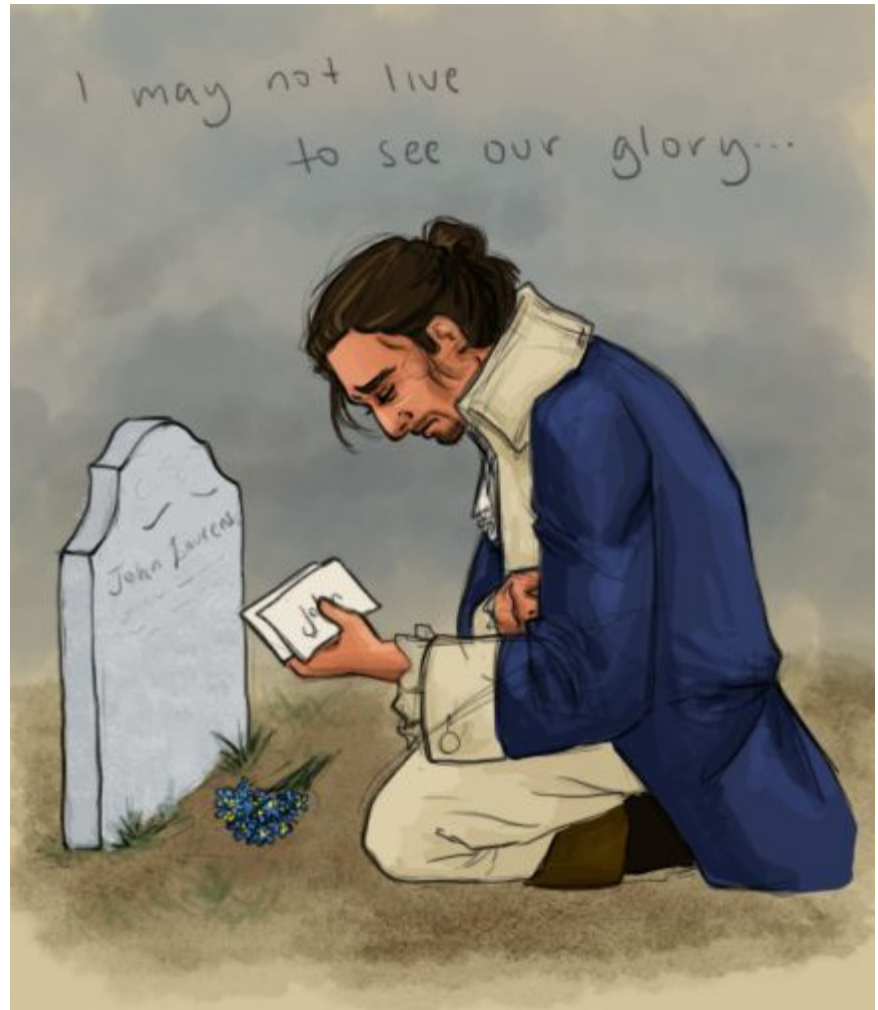
Hamilton tries to clear his name by admitting to the affair.



Act 2 Scene 4



Hamilton's son dies,
his daughter is
permanently
depressed, and his
wife is humiliated



Act 3

10:00



DUEL BETWEEN BURR AND HAMILTON.

Act 3 Scene 1



Hamilton is unable to run for President in the election of 1800.

| | |
|---|---|
|  |  |
| John Adams and the Federalists | Thomas Jefferson and the Democratic-Republicans |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rule by wealthy class• Strong federal government• Emphasis on manufacturing• Loose interpretation of the Constitution• British alliance | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rule by the people• Strong state governments• Emphasis on agriculture• Strict interpretation of the Constitution• French alliance |

Act 3 Scene 2



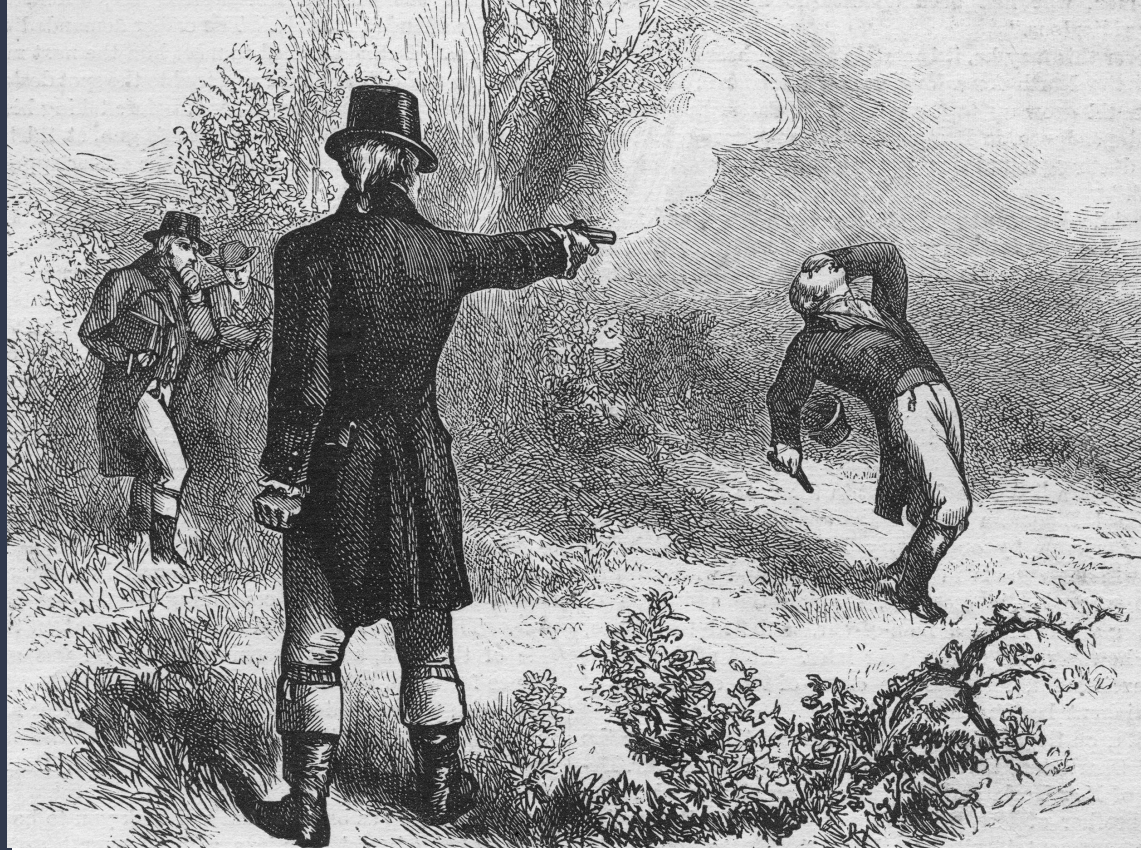
The Republicans won
but Burr and
Jefferson tied.
Hamilton broke the
tie and choose
Jefferson.



Act 3 Scene 3



Angry at Hamilton's choice, the two duel and Hamilton is killed.



Act 3 Scene 4



Burr's career ends
and is eventually
arrested for treason.



Script Directions

- 1) New Groups, Assign a Director
- 2) Assign 2 Scenes
- 3) Directors, create a google doc
- 4) Share it with each member in your small group *and director*
- 5) Follow the directions on how to create a script

...Directions

You will **perform** two scenes with your group. You can **video** them over the weekend if you like. **Everyone** must participate somehow.

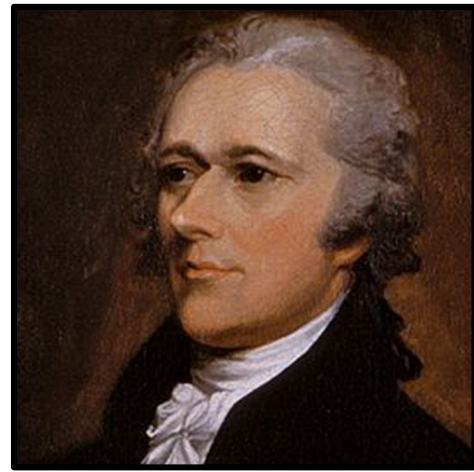
DIRECTOR – make sure everyone has role.

PROPS – Make props and scenery!

SIGNS – Make signs for the audience to make sounds or do motions.

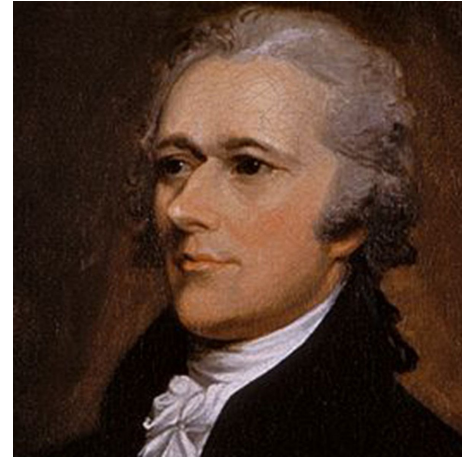
WELCOME!

- 1) YOU HAVE 2 MINUTES TO GET READY.
- 2) YOU NEED:
 - a) Scripts
 - b) Props
 - c) 5.9 for notes
- 3) Let's have fun!



Play Directions

- 1) As an audience, be respectful!
NO SIDE CONVERSATIONS
- 2) As an audience, be fun! Follow
the **directions on the posters!**
- 3) As an audience, **TALLY EACH
FACT YOU HEAR** on 5.9



Act 1



Act 1 Scene 1

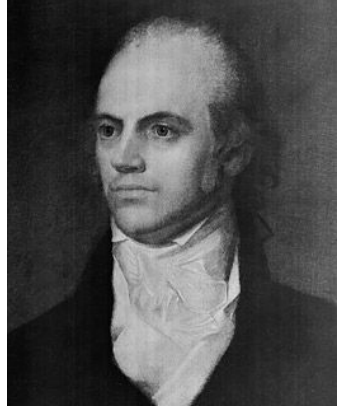
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Act 1 Scene 3



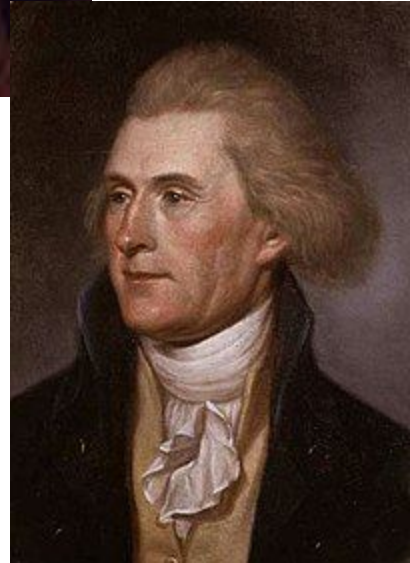
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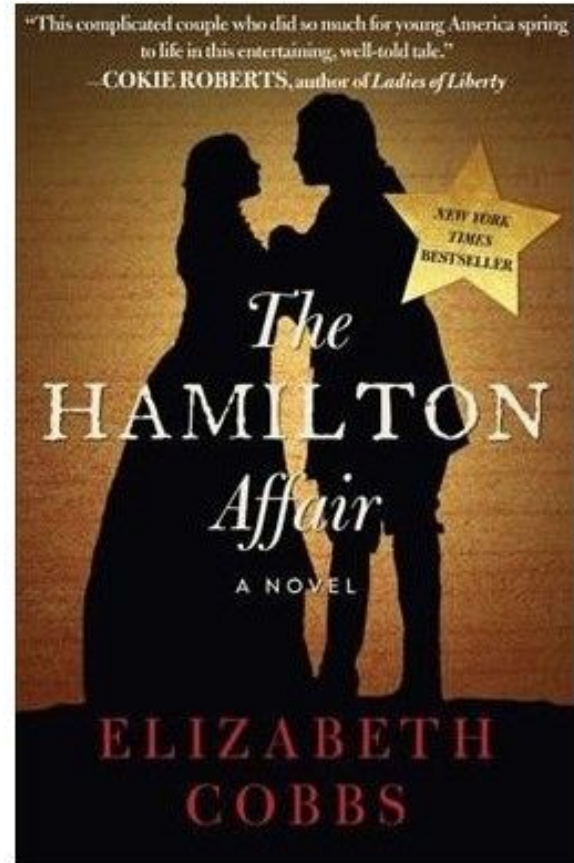


Act 2

Act 2 Scene 1



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Act 2 Scene 2



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Act 2 Scene 3



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Act 2 Scene 4



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Act 3



DUEL BETWEEN BURR AND HAMILTON.

Act 3 Scene 1



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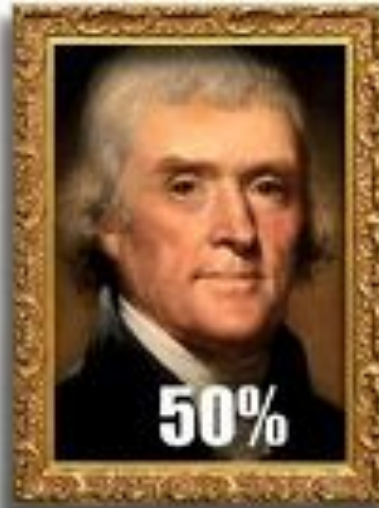
Act 3 Scene 2



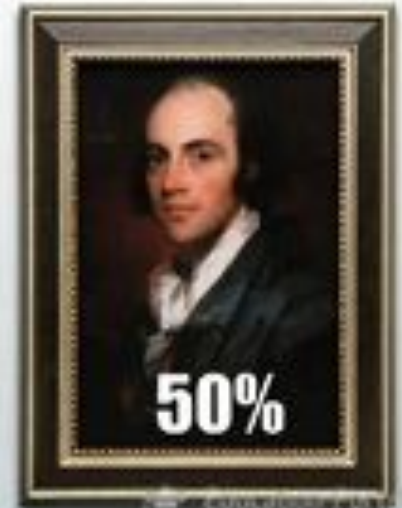
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THE ELECTION OF 1800

Thomas Jefferson



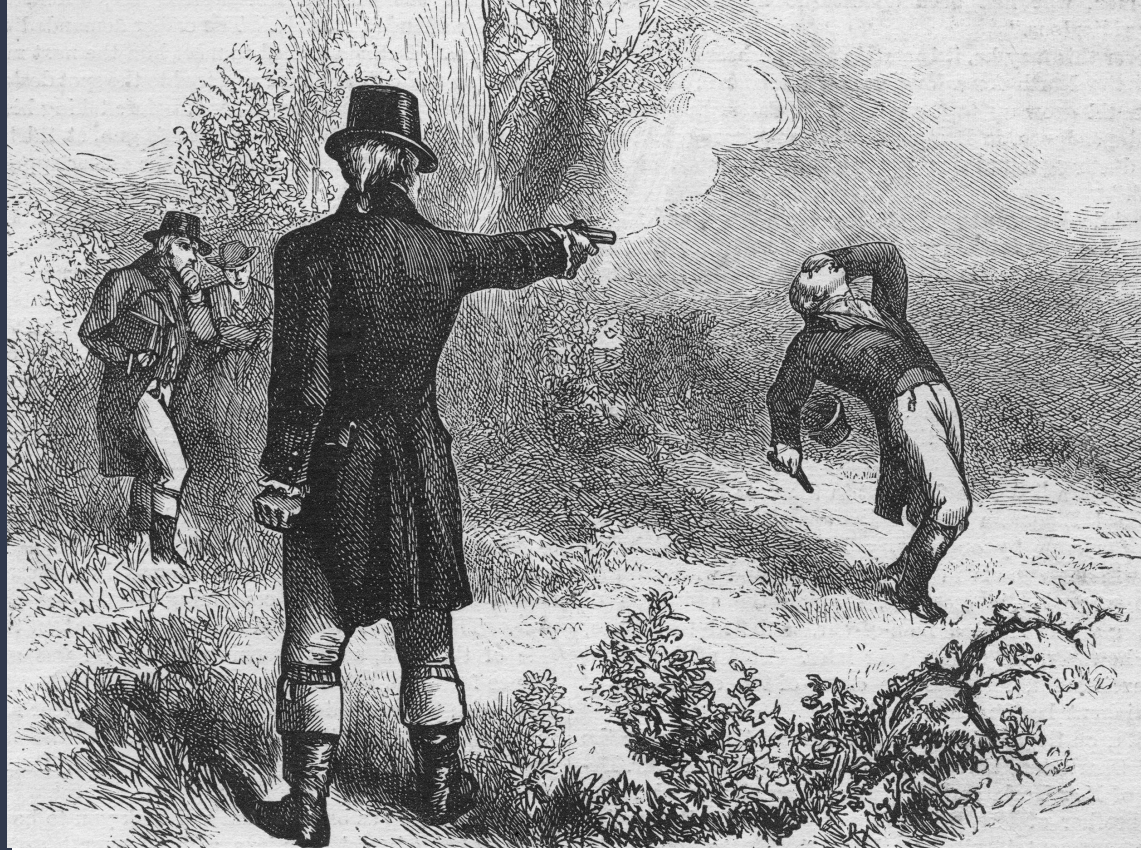
Aaron Burr



Act 3 Scene 3



Angry at Hamilton's choice, the two duel and Hamilton is killed.



Act 3 Scene 4



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Cooldown

What types of biases do you think exist in this story?

DBQ

How did political parties help or harm the country in this story?

