

1º & 2º E.S.O.

The Phantom of the Opera





SESSION 1: SYNOPSIS AND CHARACTERS

Activity 1: Synopsis



. Read the synopsis of the musical *The Phantom of the Opera* to help you get a general understanding of the storyline. Here is a glossary of words to help you...

GLOSSARY:

bitter	<i>amargado / resentido</i>	request	<i>solicitud / petición</i>
freak act	<i>monstruo / fenómeno</i>	muse	<i>musa</i>
beaten	<i>golpeado</i>	star	<i>estrella</i>
(to) terrorise	<i>aterrorizar a</i>	deceased	<i>muerto</i>
to stage	<i>poner en escena / representar</i>	high society	<i>alta sociedad</i>
performance	<i>representación</i>	gentleman	<i>caballero</i>
sold out	<i>agotado</i>	redeemed	<i>redimido</i>

Deformed since birth, a bitter man known only as the Phantom lives in the ruins of an old Opera House. As a baby, his mother abandoned him, leaving him with a circus as their "freak act". He was treated very badly and beaten, so eventually he escaped and found refuge, hiding in an old Opera House. He is a musical genius and writes beautiful music that he would love the world to hear one day. However, his disfigurement and solitary existence have made him amoral and dangerous.

When the Opera House is bought and renovated by two business men, Mr Armand and Mr Richard, the Phantom terrorises the theatre, making people believe that there is a ghost living there. Eventually, the Phantom decides to negotiate with the owners – he will stop terrorising the theatre if they agree to stage a performance using his music.

The owners agree, and the new show is a huge success, the performance is sold out every night. The public are attracted by the chance of seeing the famous theatre ghost as well as by the amazing music.

The Phantom also has another request, he wants a new star for his show. During an audition, he finds Christine who replaces Prima Donna, the Opera House's famous diva. Christine becomes the Phantom's muse and he falls in love with her. Christine believes that the Phantom is her "Angel of Music" who has been sent by her deceased father to guide her musical talent.

The Phantom is not Christine's only admirer, however. Raoul, a high society man also falls in love with Christine after watching her perform.

Who will Christine choose, the disfigured Phantom, or the gentleman, Raoul? What will the Phantom's destiny be? Will he finally find love and be redeemed?