

0. Joan of Arc - Story Preface

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Photograph by Tijmen Stam of the painting Jeanne d'Arc at the Siege of Orléans by Jules Eugène Lenepveu, painted 1886-1890. Original maintained by Panthéon de Paris. Online courtesy, Wikimedia Commons. License: CC-BY-SA-2.5.

*You state that you are my judge.
I am not aware that you are such;
But I charge you
Take heed and
Do not judge me wrongfully,
As in such case
You will place your soul
In great jeopardy.*

Jeanne d'Arc

It was the morning of March 14, 1431. Joan of Arc, age 19, was standing trial for heresy. She had no lawyer. Her chief accuser - Pierre Cauchon - was also her judge. Cauchon, a Bishop of the Catholic Church, was a man whose strongest loyalties were to himself and to his own ambitions.

After three weeks of cross examination, Cauchon had not broken Joan of Arc. With incredible courage, Joan warned her accuser to "take heed" that he "not judge [her] wrongfully."

Cauchon threatened Joan with death by burning if she were found guilty of heresy, but Joan reminded him of the penalty of eternal damnation if he continued to be unfair and biased in his responsibilities.

What facts brought this young woman to trial? On whose authority was she tried, without legal representation? What crimes did she allegedly commit, resulting in a charge of heresy, among other things?

To understand the trial, and the basis of the charges against Joan, we have to take a trip back to the Middle Ages. We have to examine what life was like then. We have to understand who Joan of Arc was in order to comprehend why her story is still fascinating, nearly six centuries later.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/joan-of-Arc)

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See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Joan-of-Arc>

Media Stream



Joan of Arc - Medieval Painting

Miniature, painting of Joan of Arc. Maintained at Centre Historique des Archives Nationales, Paris, AE II 2490.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Joan-of-Arc-Medieval-Painting>



Pierre Cauchon - Condemned Joan of Arc to Death

Original drawing, maintained at Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris.

This image, from *Jeanne D'Arc, Maid Of Orleans Deliverer Of France: Being The Story Of Her Life, Her Achievements, And Her Death As Attested On Oath And Set Forth In The Original Documents*, edited by T. Douglas Murray, [page 300](#).

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Joan of Arc Trial Transcript - Last Page with Seals

Image online, courtesy French National Archives.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Joan-of-Arc-Trial-Transcript-Last-Page-with-Seals>



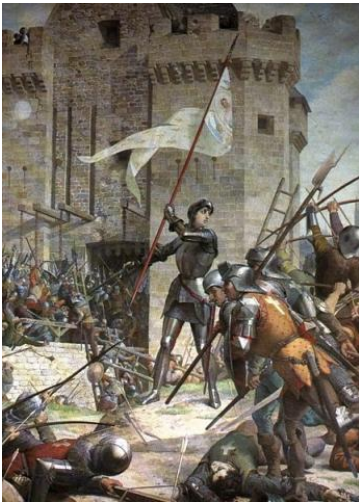
Joan of Arc Trial Transcript - Original Record

Image, described above, online courtesy National Archives of France.

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Joan of Arc

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