LIFE OF GALILEO - By Bertolt Brecht

Scene summary/characters:	Key Ideas and guestions:	Type of Conflict:	Ouotes:	Big Ideas:
Scene summary/characters: Scene One: Galileo talks to Andrea, explains to him the Copernican System. Ludovico arrives to seek private lessons. Tells Galileo about the telescope from Holland.	Key Ideas and questions: Galileo Galilei (1564 – 1642) 16 th century physicist, mathematician, engineer, astronomer and philosopher. Introduces the burgeoning, new scientific age Galileo is living in. Introduces Copernicus' hypothesis. Reveals the economic constrictions of Galileo's work as a scientist. How does doubt create conflict? 1. Why "have people believed the sun and all the stars of	Type of Conflict: Science/religion	Quotes: "For two thousand years, people have believed that the sun and all the stars of heaven rotate around mankindbut now we are breaking out of it Andrea, at full speed." p.6 "Our cities are cramped, and so are men's minds." P.6 - "Where faith has been enthroned doubt now sits" p.7 - "What was never doubted before is doubted now" p.7 - "A new time has begun, a time it's a pleasure to live in" p.10 - Giordano Bruno burnt at stake for putting science before religion.	Big Ideas: Ignorance and the status quo VS Science, Questioning, Hypothesis and Investigation Fear and Ignorance VS Science Religion/ Belief VS Science Science: -questioning -challenging -hypothesising -investigating -exploring
	heaven rotate around mankind"? -Limitations of technology -Faith -A sense of security in the knowledge that the Earth is the centre of the universe 2. Why might faith "have been enthroned for a thousand years" and now be replaced by doubt? -Raises the notion that where there is uncertainty, there can be conflict 3. Why does Galileo make a distinction between "gawping" and "seeing"? -Looking without question 4. What important observation does Galileo make about the need for teachers to learn?	Individual/state	- "What use would it be to you to have limitless spare time for research if any ignorant monk in the Inquisition could just put a ban on your thoughts?" p.15 - "Every ruler has his monks" p.15 - "The big shots won't allow it" p.18 - "We are like dull-eyed worms that can hardly see at all" p.18	 -uncertainty -risk-taking -truth Religion: -acceptance -fear -control -denial -belief -faith -God Individual – passionate, maverick, pursuit of truth, naively confident State – supreme, central power, fixed, omnipotent, unwavering, traditional, god- like.

highlight w. 6. What con Procurator	ablem does Galileo ith hypotheses? nment does the ale about the tension e Church and search? New ideas VS the status quo/ accepted body of knowledge and understanding	full speed. Because the old days are over and	 The universe has lost its centre overnight, waking to find it has countless centres. State wants inventions to make money. Importance of freedom of thinking Shifts in Power The power of ideas Revolution of ideas Popular support Anxious that knowledge is dangerous The difference between what we see and what we think we see.
	Inner Conflict	-"I am 46 years old and have achieved nothing that satisfies me" p.15	Inner Struggles: -Flaws in his character -Ethics -Plagiarism
	Freedom VS Control, censorship	-"You people handed Mr Giordano Bruno over to Rome. Because he was propagating the ideas of Copernicus. Not because he was propagating the ideas of Mr Copernicus, which anyway are wrong, but because he was not a Venetian citizen and had no regular position herenot even here." P.15	Materialism VS Ideas Success/ professional fulfilment VS Survival
		"By showing how everywhere else Inquisition prevails and burns people, you get good teachers cheap for this place" p.15 -"Listen to me, Andrea: Don't talk to other people about our ideasThe big shots won't allow it." P.18	The State sanctified persecution of the Inquisition to control, terrorise, censor, prosecute, persecute and discriminate in the name of God and Religion.

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Scene Two: Galileo perfects the telescope, by giving it a better scope. We learn he has stolen the idea from another scientist. He presents it to the Venetian public.	This scene explores plagiarism and science. Through Galileo's act of plagiarism, we see his humanness. -Audience made to question Galileo's code of ethics. 1. Why does the Procurator attribute the telescope to an "inscription in the great book of the arts"? 2. What is Ludovico starting to learn about science? -Commerce v science -ethical dilemma	Individual/state	-"And it strikes me that I'm starting to learn a thing or two about science" p.22	Galileo shows no remorse/guilt for stealing the intellectual property from someone else.
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Scene Three: Galileo's research proves to the authentic nature of the Copernican System. The curator discovers Galileo's plagiarism. Galileo writes a letter to the court in Florence.	The power and the danger of TRUTH is explored. This scene includes a speech about REASON and its seductions. 1. Why does Galileo mark this date as "got rid of heaven"? 2. Why were Galileo's earlier inventions so well received? 3. Why does Sagredo "feel something not all that remote from fear"? 4. What comment might be made about Galileo's ethics? 5. What fundamental principle does Galileo challenge with his view that "the earth is a planet and not the centre of the universe"? 6. What observation does Sagredo make about human reason? 7. What does Galileo believe is	Religion/science Individual/state – political conflict Inner conflict truth v faith reason v emotion commerce v science	-"Today mankind can write in its diary: Got rid of Heaven" p.24 - Sagredo questions "Then where is God?" p.28. - "Forty years spent amongst human beings has again and again brought home to me that they are not open to reason" p.29 – Sagredo - "Don't tell me people like that can't grasp the truth. They grab at it" p.31 "I can see you embarking on a frightful road" p.31 ***** - "Don't go to Florence, Galileo" p.33 - "Ten years ago in Rome they burnt a man at the stake" p.24	Galileo confirms Copernican theory. Ultimately, this discovery overturns the traditional religious conviction that God created earth as the centre of the universe. What is also revealed here is Galileo's self-centredness and indulgence for the finer things in life. Sagredo warns Galileo that going to Florence armed with the truth will be his doom.

	the difference between what Copernicus was proposing and what he is proposing? 8. Why does Sagredo believe "it is a disastrous night when mankind sees the truth"?			
Scene summary/characters: Scene Four: Galileo in Florence perfects his telescope and notes new discoveries. He gets into a dispute over the truthfulness of his discoveries with the aristocrats of the Florentine court.	Key Ideas and Questions: The aristocrats fear of new ideas. Is truth relative? Will truth always win over authority? 1. What distinction is Galileo attempting to make between "the authority of Aristotle" and "tangible facts"? 2. What does Galileo mean when he says "Truth is born of the times, not of authority"?	Conflict: Individual/state Science/religion	 -"This is how it is really" p.36 -"Can such planets exist?" p.38 -"Gentlemen, in all humility I ask you to go by the evidence of your eyes" p.41 -"Truth is born of the times, not of authority. Our ignorance is limitless" p.42 -"Mr Galileo, truth might lead us anywhere!" p.42 -"Of course, the court intellectuals refuse such 	Big Ideas: Cosimo de Medici, the 9 year old Grand Duke of Tuscany is the embodiment of authority and power wants to hold the universe in his hands, however he and Andrea end up wrestling and the model of the universe is broken. Galileo and the Philosopher have different concepts of truth.
Scene summary/characters:	Key Ideas and Questions:	Conflict:	sensory evidence not because they are stupid, but because they have a vested interest in the hierarchical structure of the universe" p.43 Quotes:	of seeing the truth of a situation than those who hold power and authority. Big Ideas:
Scene Five: Galileo continues his research; the plague breaks out.	How does fear motivate people? How does fear fuel conflict? How does superstition and misunderstanding?	Individual/state		Those who continue to work during the Plague, regardless of the risk.

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Scene Six: The Vatican approves Galileo's discoveries and he is validated by the church's greatest astronomer, Christopher Clavius.	Raises the doubt whether mankind must find the answers to all questions. Also, considers how man should see itself within the universe. The Inquisition was the church's response to encountering conflict. When should you challenge authority? When should you let go? 1. What causes the mocking at the beginning of this scene? 1. What couses the mocking at the beginning of this scene? 1. What position do the First and Second Astronomers take? 2. What position does the Old Cardinal take? 4. What conclusion does Christopher Clavius reach and what further predicament does this put Galileo in?	Individual/state Science/religion	-"Which is better I ask you: to have an eclipse of the moon happen three days later than the calendar says, or never to have eternal salvation at all?" p.52 -"Are the scriptures lying?" p.52 - "They degrade humanity's dwelling place to a wandering starWait till they say man and animal are not distinct either, man himself is an animal, there's nothing but animals!" p.53 - "You bear a remarkable likeness to what's-his- name, you know, the man we burned" p.53 - "You've won" p.54 (Little Monk) - "He's right" p.54 Clavius explains - "Reason has won" p.54 – Galileo	Whilst the church investigates Galileo's theories – monks mock him, but apparently "reason" wins. Very old cardinal threatens Galileo
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Scene Seven: Galileo attends Ball at Cardinal Bellarmin's house in Rome. The cardinal warns him to keep his research 'hypothetical'. Ludivico and Virginia are in love.	During this scene, Galileo, and Cardinals Bellarmin and Barberini have a heated discussion about faith and reason. Reinforcing the conflict between the science and religion. P.58-60 This scene reinforces the corrupt and deceptive nature of officials in power. Note the use of masks in this scene – the lamb and dove, representing innocence and peace. Yet it is clear that these men are in fact cunning	Individual/state Religion/science	-"One has to move with the times, gentlemen. Not just hugging the coasts; sooner or later one has to venture out" p.56 -"We must move with the times, Barberini. If new star charts based on a new hypothesis help our mariners to navigate, then they should make use of them. We only disapprove of such doctrines as run counter to the Scriptures" p.57 -"Men's reason, my friend, does not take us very far. All around us we see nothing but crookedness, crime and weakness. Where is truth?" p.59	Here Galileo speaks to two secretaries playing chess, reinforcing the idea of unshackling the mind and allowing the new ideas and possibilities to evolve. Whilst Bellarmin hypocritically suggests that while the church accepts new knowledge helpful to commerce and trade, it will not embrace knowledge that undermines the Scriptures.

	 and wily politicians who stop at nothing to manipulate and wield power over others. People continue to talk about Galileo and his theories, yet he has no control over what they are saying. Consider what happens when conflict builds and it is out of anyone's personal control? 1. What analogy does Galileo use to explain his theory to Barberini? 2. What conclusion does Bellarmin say the Holy Office has reached? 		-"I believe in men's reason" p.59 -"I am a faithful son of the church" p.59 -"Mr Galileo, Tonight the Holy Office decided that the doctrine of Copernicusis foolish, absurd, heretical and contrary to our faith. I have been charged to warn you that you must abandon this view" p.60 -"You must treat the doctrine in the form of a hypothesis. Science is the rightful and much loved daughter of the Church. None of us seriously believe that you want to shake men's faith in the church " p.61 -"We need you more than you need us" p.61	Galileo responds to the cardinals. Bellarmin – this response demonstrates how easily those in power can manipulate the truth. According to biblical scholars, "truth" is found only in the scriptures and, as it is the Church theologians who interpret the scriptures, there is little chance of challenging doctrinal "truths" and thereby destabilising society. The Catholic Church is at the pinnacle of the social hierarchy in Renaissance Italy, but cannot maintain this position without God and Heaven. Barberini
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Scene Eight: Galileo's humble conversation with the humble little monk on the conflicts between religion and science.	 What leads to a better life – scientific knowledge or religious faith? Can you believe in God and scientific reason? The central theme of power is explored in this scene. the way in which the Church maintains its authority; the Little Monk refers to the Church's "exceptional powers of enforcement" p.64. the way the Church uses its power to wage wars in Germany 	Inner Conflict	-"I have been unable to sleep for three days" p.64 -"What would be the value or necessity then of so much patience, such understanding of their own poverty?" p.65 -'What would be the use of the Holy Scripture, which has explained and justified it all-the sweat, the patience, the hunger, the submissiveness-and now turns out to be full of errors?" p.66 -"We have the highest of all motives for keeping our mouths shut-the peace of mind of the less fortunate" p.67	The Little Monk recognises that Galileo is correct about the moons of Jupiter; however, he struggles with his faith. Little Monk fears the collapse of the established social order. He goes on to discuss his parents who were peasants -
	power to wage wars in Germany and Spain p.66 -Galileo's response to Church power. The tone of his language here is more heated and militant, with a revolutionary flavour p.68	Individual/state	-"My dear fellow, authority is rewarding me for not disturbing the peace of mind" P.67 -"Oh, to hell with it: I see your people's divine patience, but where is their divine anger?" p.68 - "If I were to agree to keep my mouth shut my motives would be thoroughly low ones: an easy life" p.67	Galileo responds by defending the need to tell the truth. Galileo argues the peasants suffer because those in power do not care – it's not about the God, it seems the Church is used to keeping the rich in power and the

	At this point, we still consider Galileo to be a hero. Is revealing the truth important above all else? 1. What might be the "potential dangers for humanity in wholly unrestricted research"? 2. What does the Little Monk see as the danger is suggesting Galileo's ideas to people like his parents? What is Galileo's response?		-"But don't you think the truth will get through without us, so long as it's true?" p.68 -"The only truth that gets through will be what we force through; the victory of reason will be the victory of people who are prepared to reason" p.68	poor remain poor. Galileo continues to believe in reason; the thought of holding back suggests he is a coward. Little Monk Galileo
Scene summary/characters:	Key Ideas and Questions:	Conflict:	Quotes:	Big Ideas:
Scene Nine: 8 years have passed and Galileo has continued to remain silent. New Pope Urban XIII, Barberini (a mathematician) is appointed. Galileo once again decides to study the Heavens. In doing so, he alienates Ludovico who breaks off his engagement to Virginia.	Research over blind faith. 1. Why is Galileo so angry with Filippo Mucius? 2. What prompts Galileo to begin postulating his theories again? 3. What challenge does Ludovico suggest the future pope will have?	Individual/state Religion/Science State/individual	- "Someone who does know the truth and calls it a lie is a crook" p.70 - "You really ought to go to a proper astronomer at the university and get him to cast your horoscope" p.71 - "Did they stop you from marrying my daughter	Filippo Mucius (Galileo's former student) – is condemned by his teacher because he published work attacking Copernicus' theories. Galileo is quick to judge. Consider this attitude later on in the play when Galileo recants. Mrs Sarti suggests to Virginia to seek guidance about her future. Superstition appears Galileo speaks to Ludovico
			because I had a term of probation to serve?" p.77 -"Don't forget that the poor little things are little better than animals and get everything muddled upthey truly are like beasts" p.79 -"I will write in the language of the people, for the many, rather than in Latin for the few" p.79 -"You will always be the slave of your passions" p.80	Galileo confronts Ludovico's conservative views about the peasants and threatens to stir them up by writing his ideas in Italian – the language ordinary people will understand.
		Science/Family	-"I caught you secretly starting your	Mrs Sarti accuses Galileo of

			'obsessions' again" p.78 -"You're just as bad as beforeyou have no right to trample all over your daughter's happiness with your great feet" p.78 -"You sent him away, father" p.81	choosing science over Virginia's happiness. How much are people willing to sacrifice in order to achieve? Virginia
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Scene Ten: The year is 1632 – 10 years have passed. The Ballad of Galileo's deeds shows the common people's response to his discovery, breaking the authority of the bible, and therefore the Church.	Galileo is portrayed as the destroyer of the bible. The ballad suggests the freedom and the dangers that accompany radical change, and show that overturning the social order can be a source of both community conflict and individual anxiety. The power of words – do words have power? 1. Summarise the song sung at the carnival. What is its purpose?	State/individual	-"People must see their place, some down and some on top" p.84 -"Galileo Galilei, the bible-buster!" p.85 -"Independent spirit spreads like foul disease" p.87	Feudal society during the 1600s in Italy. In claiming that the world revolves around the sun has turned the world upside down; the social order has been disrupted. The Power of words
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Scene Eleven: In 1633 - Galileo is summoned by the Inquisition in Rome. The court of Florence announces it can no longer offer him protection. Galileo is accused of circulating pamphlets that condemn the Bible	Galileo sticks to his arguments and expresses his firm belief in them even if no one else does. Note Galileo's failing eyesight; this can also be symbolic in that he is unwilling to see the consequences of his controversial ideas. 1. What can be inferred from Vanni's comparison between what is happening in Rome and other parts of Europe? 2. What preparations has Galileo made and what does this suggest?	Science/religion Individual/state	-"We manufacturers are behind you…" p.87 -"To me you're the man who's battling for freedom to teach what's new" p.87 -"The Holy Inquisition wish to interrogate you in Rome" p.90	Manufacturers seem to be allied with reason. Vanni Galileo is rejected by authority Sometimes we are forced to suffer the consequences of something we cannot control.

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Scene Twelve: The Pope and the Inquisitor discuss methods of dealing with Galileo's revolutionary doctrines. The Pope does not forbid Galileo's teachings.	The Inquisitor fears loss of power and status as a result of Galileo's teachings. During this scene we see the Pope physically transform with all the opulent garments and trappings of his powerful position. Brecht cleverly uses this dramatic transformation (both physically and metaphorically) to reinforce the power of the Church and its position at the centre of the revolving universe. Change causes conflict. 1. What observation does the Inquisitor make about the people gathering at the Vatican? 2. What is he suggesting is at the heart of Galileo's hypothesis?	Science/religion Individual/state	-"Are we to base human society on doubt and no longer on faith?" p.92 -"At the very most he can be shown the instruments" p.94	The Inquisitor highlights the dangers to the Church of Galileo's doctrines. Barberini becomes the symbol of this conflict when he becomes Pope. He does not want to deny science but he has to be the Pope – only when fully robed as the Pope does he allow for the instruments of torture to be shown to Galileo. Rapid change causes conflict
Scene summary/characters:	Key Ideas and Question:	Conflict:	Quotes:	Big Ideas:
Scene Thirteen: Galileo recants (retracts, withdraws, denies)	Recantation or death – what is the nobler act? Note the use of lightness and darkness in this scene, where light represents an age of reason or enlightenment and darkness resembles superstition and falsehood. 1. Why is Andrea so disappointed in Galileo? 2. What observation does Galileo make at the end of this scene?	Individual /state	-"Someone who does know the truth and calls it a lie is a crook" p.95 -"She is praying that he'll recant" p.96 -"No force will help them to make what has been seen unseen" p.96 -"I can't wait anymore, they're beheading the truth" p.97 -"Unhappy the land that has no heroes!" p.98 -"I can't look at him. Get him away" p.98 -"No. Unhappy the land where heroes are needed" p.98	Andrea Andrea says this of Virginia. Andrea and Little Monk state that once the truth is known and discovered circumstances will therefore change for the better. Andrea Galileo's recantation leads to distressing personal conflict between Galileo and his former protégée, Andrea. Does surrendering = lost?

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Scene Fourteen: 1633-1642 - Older Galileo living in a house in the country near Florence, a prisoner of the Inquisition until his death. Virginia continues to care for her father. Andrea comes to visit. He is leaving Italy to do research in Holland. Galileo gives him the Discorsi.	Research will continue even if it is forbidden. Despite attempts to portray Galileo as an anti-hero, moments of heroism shine through. 1. Summarise Galileo's monologue to Andrea. Why is he so critical of himself?	Inner Conflict Science/religion	-"I feel concern for certain scientific friends whom I led into error. Did they learn anything from my recantation?" p.103 -"Fulganzio, our little monk, has given up science and gone back to the bosom of the church" p.103 -"My superiors hope to achieve a spiritual cure in my case too" p.104 -"I've finished the Discorsithe transcript is inside the globe" p.105	By recanting, Galileo set science back by many years. He has however, completed the Discorsi and openly states that science aims to turn us all into doubters.
		Inner Conflict Individual/state	-"I've been risking the last pathetic remnants of my own comfort by making a transcript" p.105 -"I recanted because I was afraid of physical pain" p.107 -"Better to hand out soup in Christian love than pay them more" p.101 -"I taught you science and denied the truth" p.106 -"Your hands are stained, we said. You're saying, better stained than empty" p.106 -"They did win" p.107 -"Fearing death is human. Human weaknesses don't matter to science" p.107 -"The pursuit of science seems to me to demand particular courage in this respect. It deals in knowledge procured through doubt" p.107 -108 ***** -"Science, Sarti, is involved in both these battles. A human race which shambles around in a pearly haze of superstition and old saws, too ignorant to develop its own powers" p.108 -"As a scientist I had a unique opportunity" p.109 -"Had I stood firm the scientist could have developed something like a doctors' Hippocratic oath; a vow to use their knowledge	Galileo is writing a book in support of the church. At this point, Andrea's faith becomes restored in Galileo. Andrea tries to justify Galileo's actions – better stained than empty. Galileo says he sold out and that science is not honourable.

			exclusively for mankind's benefit" P.109 -"Look after yourself when you pass through Germany, with the truth under your coat" p.109	
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Scene Fifteen: 1637 Andrea smuggles Galileo's Discorsi out of Italy.	Symbolises that those is pursuit of scientific knowledge will continue their research despite any restrictions imposed by the ruling powers. 1. What attitude of the border guards works to Andrea's advantage? 2. How does Brecht choose to end the play and why?		-"May you now guard science's light" p.110 -"Lest it be a flame to fall" p.110	The verse at the commencement of scene 15 speaks directly to the audience, as Brecht's epic theatre tends to do. It encourages the audience to "guard science's light" and to use scientific knowledge and discovery for positive social purposes. The conclusion of the verse refers to the atomic bombs that engulfed Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the close of WWII.
			-"Nobody who wanted to hide something would put it under our noses like that" p.111	Reinforcing a central theme of seeing, looking and misunderstanding.
			-"You should learn to use your eyes" p.113	A final message to all. Will truth always triumph? Although the conclusion is left for your own interpretation, perhaps Brecht is suggesting that the fundamental truth will win in the end. Superstition and science are juxtaposed in this final scene.