DOCTOR FAUSTUS

Key Points
1. Do not let your lack of sympathy for Faustus blunt critical engagement with the text
2. The narrative of Doctor Faustus allows Marlowe to express blasphemous concepts
3. The character of Faustus is based on the real-life man, Dr. Johann Georg Faust
4. Contemporary performances of Faustus tend to lack the risk involved in Marlowe's own time. Students need to be aware of how exciting and challenging the play can be.
5. Watch Silviu Purcăreţe’s take on Doctor Faustus to get a sense of the type of danger that can be involved within an interpretation of the play.

Quotations
• “Faust. My heart's so hard'ned I cannot repent. Scarcely can I name salvation, faith, or heaven, But fearful echoes thunder in mine ears "Faustus, thou art damn'd!"”
  Doctor Faustus, Scene VI, II.20 – 23
• “Now go not backward: no, Faustus, be resolute. Why waverest thou? O, something soundeth in mine ears "Abjure this magic, turn to God again!"”
  Doctor Faustus, Scene V, ll.8 – 10.

Suggested Passages for Analysis
• Scene V, Lines 1 – 15
• Scene VI, Lines 20 – 40

Further Reading
  The most thoroughly Satanic reading of the play is in this lamentably hard-to-find essay by Nicholas Brooke, where the play is read as Faustus' inverted morality play, a quest to reach hell and resist all the temptations set out by heaven.

Web Links
• The Victorian Web provides a rich array of resources, including a chronology and articles on Wilde's works: http://www.victorianweb.org/authors/wilde/index.html
• In Our Time BBC Radio 4 programme on Oscar Wilde: http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00547m3
• The OUP Writers Inspire project provides a range of resources for teachers and students on Oscar Wilde: https://writersinspire.org/writers/oscar-wilde
• University of Missouri website on the trial of Oscar Wilde: http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/wilde/wilde.htm