

4.4. CONSEQUENCES OF RESEARCHING “FORBIDDEN” HISTORY

I found that researching history that is “forbidden” can be a trial of conscience which is challenging, sometimes even frightening.

If I think of what my own fear was about, it wasn't only about the discovery itself. Rather, it was also about the consequences of making the discovery and how it would impact my close relationships. Perhaps I was also afraid of how it would impact my own perception of myself. All of us are the inheritors of a very long and complex history and, even if most of us don't think about it all of the time, our perception of the past also forms our picture of ourselves.

If some part of history is forbidden it generates suspicion and mistrust. Those are the seeds of conflict in our society.

4.4.1 Discuss episodes in *The Pendulum* that most illustrate to you the trial of conscience associated with researching forbidden history.

4.4.2 What could the possible positive consequences of facing history be and how might they become a basis for action? What examples are there of this in *The Pendulum*?