

Discussion Points and Review Notes
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Antigone



Characters



Major:

- Antigone, Creon, Haemon, Tiresias (A.K.A. Teiresias), Chorus
 - How do these characters influence the conflict? What are their roles?

Minor:

- Ismene, Eurydice, Sentry / guard, leader, messenger
 - Why are these characters important? What purpose do they serve?

Cultural Elements



- ❖ Obedience to the gods (or risk angering them)
 - Antigone wants to follow the laws of the gods and bury her brother.
 - Tiresias claims that Creon's refusal to bury Polynices has angered the gods and poisoned the birds and dogs that fed on him.

Cultural Elements



- ❖ Obedience to the state (or risk death)
 - According to Creon- anarchy is the greatest evil society faces.

Cultural Elements



❖ Obedience to family (or risk punishment)

- Ismene is afraid of her uncle, and Haemon does not disobey his father.



The Role of Women

- It is clear that women are subservient. Ismene mentions this in the beginning when Antigone asks her to help bury Polynices.
- We see this theme again later when Creon is speaking with Haemon. He advises his son not to be ruled by a woman and that there are plenty more beyond Antigone.

The Evil of Pride



- We see this element through both main characters.
- Antigone's pride prevents her from backing down. She blames her fate on her family rather than accepting that she has made the choices knowing the consequences.
- Creon's pride prevents him from bending his will. He refuses to back down out of fear how the people will view him. He also refuses to acknowledge his son's opinion or that of his trusted advisor Tiresias.



Leadership or lack of

- While Creon is the king, he has only become so through the downfall of his brother and the death of his nephews. Does this create the need to prove himself as powerful?
- In several sections, Creon demonstrates paranoia. He accuses both the guard and the prophet of receiving bribes. Does this paranoia cloud his judgment?

Leadership or lack of



- Creon's sentry/guard is obviously afraid of him. Both Creon's orders and punishments as well as the reaction of others show us his worth as a leader.
- We see the shift in the chorus from the beginning to the end. At first they support Creon, but eventually they become sympathetic to Antigone. What might this symbolize?

Lots and lots of Allusion



- Throughout the text we see references to god and events that the audience would have known.
- In the Parados, the chorus sings about a battle wherein Thebes was being attacked, and Zeus intervened.
- Antigone refers to Niobe, Queen of Thebes who turned to stone and weeps forever.
- The chorus tells of Danae, and Argive princess who had been imprisoned by her father
- As evidenced by marginal notes: names, places, and stories were important to the Greek people.