

Antigone Discussion Notes  
10-20 C&T

Suggestions Put on the Board

- Who's the hero?
- P. 3 Weakness of Women
- P. 12-13 Money Statement
- P. 19 What is law really?
- P. 23 Ismene's confession to Antigone's crime
- P. 32-33 Theme of government in play
- P. 31 Haemon's speech to Creon
- Is King Creon good or bad? Why?
- P. 44-45 Creon and Tiresias
- P. 46 Tiresias's prophecy
- P. 54 Creon's reaction to son's death
- P. 56 Creon's reaction to wife's death

1. Who's the hero?

- Antigone for standing up for her beliefs
- Haemon took up Antigone's cause (decided this was not really as heroic)
- Creon for upholding law of king
- Creon was really acting like a "spoiled child" and was fighting the wrong battle
- Haemon's death more meaningful to city than Antigone's (Haemon changed Creon's mind)
- Creon acting politically not morally (tragic hero?)

2. Weakness of Women

- Ismene arguing with Antigone "subject to men because they are stronger"
- Antigone knows there are causes worth fighting for, while Ismene is resigned to fate of inferiority
- Why was a character like Antigone given her social situation?
- A woman overcoming her gender role strengthens the importance of her cause
- This shows progress in culture

3. Money Statement

- Is money evil?
- Is evil quality given to money intrinsic to humans?
- money = power (that is what gives it its corrupt quality)

4. What is law?

- Antigone does not deny deed
- Gods did not make law against burial of brother
- Antigone acting on higher power (one man can not overrule Gods)
- Was Creon right or wrong?
- Polyneices- can't gain power by being a "bitch"

5. Ismene confesses to Antigone's crime

- Ismene is a coward for not standing up for cause from the beginning
- Ismene too much wavering (knows that cause is right so eventually stands up for it)
- Antigone will not let her because she was not with her from the start

6. Creon's reactions to death of family members

- Creon does not respect death until it affects his immediate family
- Gods possibly taking revenge on Creon