

# Antigone Reading Review Questions

## Prologue

Explain who the following people are in the story and why they're important:

- a. Creon
- b. Antigone
- c. Ismene
- d. Chorus
- e. Choragos
- f. Eteocles
- g. Polyneices

8. Why doesn't Creon want to give Polyneices a burial?
9. What causes the Sentry to be worried?

## Scene 1

10. In Lines 236-248, Creon is very angry. Why is he angry? To whom is the "they" referring? What details support your conclusions?
11. What order does Creon give the soldier?
12. What is the purpose of an Ode?
13. What is the main idea of the first three stanzas of Ode 1?
14. In the Antistrophe 2, we learn that the Chorus supports Creon. Why?
15. What current politicians or people do these characters remind you of?
16. What kind of a leader is Creon? Would you like him to be the President of the United States? Why or why not?

## Scene 2

17. How does the sentry discover that Antigone is the culprit and has illegally buried her brother? Describe what happens ?
18. How does the sentry feel about catching Antigone? Find a CD to support your answer.
19. What reasons does Antigone give for defying Creon?
20. How does Creon plan to punish Antigone?
21. How does Antigone respond to Creon's accusations that she is dishonoring Eteocles by wishing to bury Polyneices?

22. How does Antigone respond to Ismene's support and reversal of opinion? Does her reaction come from frustration, love, or both? Are Ismene's feelings authentic or contrived? Find CDs to support your answer.
23. Antigone says the citizens of Thebes are afraid to speak out against Creon, even though they disagree with him (lines 395-400). What historical and contemporary examples can you give of citizens who failed to protest immoral actions by their leaders? What motives besides fear might cause citizens to remain silent in such cases?
24. Ismene tries to save Antigone's life by reasoning with Creon. What arguments does she make and how does Creon respond?
25. Briefly summarize the theme of Ode 2.
26. What are some underlying themes or messages from the story so far?

### Scene 3

27. How does Haimon feel about his father's order to kill Antigone?
28. How does Creon feel about anarchy or people who break laws?
29. In lines 543-58, what is Haimon's main argument? What message is he giving his father?
30. How does the rest of Thebes feel about what Antigone has done? Do they agree with Antigone or Creon?
31. How has Haimon's attitude changed towards his father in this scene?
32. This ode responds to Scene 3, which which Creon accuses Haimon of being led by love of a woman. What does the Chorus say it believes about love?

### Scene 4

33. In the opening of Scene 4, how does Antigone feel about her upcoming death?
34. The Chorus and Antigone refer to Oedipus at the beginning of the scene. What are they discussing?
35. Does the Chorus think it's Antigone's fault that she's going to die? Why do they feel this way?
36. What type of death does Creon choose for Antigone? Why do you think he chooses this method?
37. Antigone says, "I have done no wrong, I have not sinned before God" (722-23). Is this statement true? Why or why not?
38. What connections does Ode 4 make between Antigone and various Greek gods?

## Scene 5

39. What omen, or sign, does Teiresias experience to make him think that the gods are mad at Creon?
40. What warning or message does Teiresias give Creon at the beginning of Scene 5?
41. How does Creon respond to this warning?
42. What is Teiresias' parting message to Creon?
43. After talking with the Choragos, what does Creon ultimately decide to do? Why?
44. What is a Paen and what purpose does it serve in a Greek play?
45. What is the Exodos of a Greek play?
46. Who is Eurydice?
47. In the final scene, what does Creon do to the body of Polyneices?
48. How does Antigone die?
49. How does Haimon react to Antigone's death? (Make sure to go into detail.)
50. Explain the meaning of the following quote: "Haimon my son, so you, so young to die, I was the fool, not you; and you died for me." What has Creon learned?
51. What happens to Eurydice?
52. How would you paraphrase the last four lines of the play?
53. What is the theme, or underlying message, of Antigone? Remember, in describing a theme, you explain what a story's about, but without mentioning the plot.