

## Antigone Essay Questions

1. Oedipus Rex – Oedipus was rigid and not willing to listen to any one, and Creon says he should be more flexible. Then, when Creon becomes king, he is hypocritical and won't move on his beliefs, and hubris/is paranoid.

Oedipus was rigid and not willing to listen to anyone. Creon's attitude towards Oedipus' loss of balance – Creon is guilty of the same quality: proclamation, religious beliefs, places needs of state over needs of family, takes no advice, he is king, and not flexible at all, which Haemon calls him on. Ironic because like Oedipus → peripeteia – reversal in fortune. Realizes/sees what he did wrong after he is blind.

2. He experiences a reversal of fortune after losing two sons, a daughter in law and the kingdom. He must be punished for his hubris.

Creon's hubris is responsible for the suffering not only in his life, but in the lives of others.

- By ordering Antigone's death, it lead to the suicides of Haemon and his wife Eurydice's death
  - Impact on Ismene – loss of family with no future
  - Impact on Thebes – Country divided with no king
  - Mental health/paranoid/defensive about power
  - Polyneices might not have been about to cross over.
  - Peripeteia – reversal of fortune
3. Aristotle believed that a women should not be manly in any way. His concept of acceptable gender roles is reflected in Creon's misogynistic treatment of the women in this play. (Antigone, Ismene, Eurydice)
    - Overall, he views women as subordinate/submissive and sexual only
    - Antigone is killed for acting like a man and doing something(stand up for something)
    - Eurydice said that her life with Creon was not happy as a/his wife – was not treated well
    - **Antigone was a women who went against his law**, which is more embarrassing – he felt that it was disrespectful for a women to disobey him./does not want women to show/blow him up – **He did not want to look weak, especially to a woman such as Antigone – plays into his hubris**

- Ismene is used as a bargaining chip/pawn and is accused when Creon is paranoid. – **He is unreasonable in his treatment of women such as wrongly accusing Ismene who was innocent.**
- Creon does not listen to Haemon and save Antigone

#### 4. Elements of a Tragedy:

- Sad ending – nearly/almost everyone dies
- Peripeteia – reversal of fortune for Creon (and Antigone)
- Imitation of an action (jn life)
- \*\*Hubris – Creon and Antigone's hubris cause a large number of the problems
- Chorus to indicate the beliefs of society
- Beginning, middle, end
- Language fitting a serious topic
- Tragic hero – Creon (and Antigone?)

#### Tragic Hero elements:

- Must have a **tragic/fatal flaw** – Creon's desire for power
  - Excessive pride – **lot of hubris** – toward or defiance of the gods leading to nemesis/the gods being against him.
  - **High standing/position in the community** – Creon is king, rich with a lot to lose
  - \*\*Reversal in fortune (**Peripeteia**)
  - **Epiphany in end**/stunning realization after losing everyone and everything. (family and power and position)
5. Lesson being taught – **Thesis** The lesson being taught is that excessive pride/hubris, which Creon expresses by defying the law of the gods causes his **peripeteia** (downfall).
- Reversal in fortune after changing a religious law that is a social practice to try and establish supreme power and not allow Polyneices to be buried.
  - \*The events that caused the downfall of Creon are a result of disrespecting the will of the Gods
- **Main points**
    - All based on burial of Polyneices – Creon's hubris prevents him from doing that
    - Haemon and Tiresias confirm that what Creon is doing is wrong/bad – gave him warning signs/wake up call
    - Loses those close to him – Antigone, son Haemon, wife Eurydice, and his life and stature.
    - **Conclusion** – Will of gods is supreme and Creon's excessive pride set up for his downfall.
  - Cannot override the laws of the gods – If you defy the Gods, **you will be punished** – **Do not mess with the Gods/respect them**

- **Every body/man must be buried**
  - **Do the opposite of Creon/be the Anti-Creon/not to do what Creon does as he was not a good example as to how he dealt with the Gods and was as a leader. – He should be more open-minded. He went against the God's rule to bury all bodies.**
  - Women have defined role in society
  - Listen to others point of view (POV)
  - Creon caused the downfall of his country then himself
    - Private before public needs. – **He should not have put power before family.**
  - Excessive pride = bad side of gods
6. Creon does not **realize** what he has really done until it is **too late** and his wife and son both kill themselves after Antigone does. Antigone realizes she was/is not as strong as she thought she was.
- Loneliness is a result of Creon and Antigone's ignorance.
    - Both attain self-knowledge because Antigone wants to be a martyr and have someone kill her, but she bit off more than she could/can chew and realized she could not handle it. She(or he) wants recognition and something to do with her. She was willing to go against the king. Was difficult for them to attain self-knowledge through their stubbornness and hubris. Creon has an epiphany, but Antigone loses perspective.
    - **Self-knowledge – In the end, Creon realizes he is responsible and that he did something wrong.**
    - **Thesis** – Loneliness is a result of Creon's ignorance
    - **Both Creon and Antigone attain self-knowledge**
      - Antigone in tomb – realizes that this is the end
      - Both re
    - **\*\*cause – Antigone defies Creon's law, buries her brother – so it is debatable whether she was a martyr.**
    - **One cannot change a person, they must change themselves.**