

GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS FOR ACTIVE READING

Antigone: Prologue and Parodos

Sophocles

translated by Dudley Fitts and Robert Fitzgerald

Pupil's Edition page 690

Conscience vs. Authority

The conflict between Antigone and Ismene in the Prologue is a universal one—individual conscience at odds with established authority. Antigone is prepared to act according to what she believes is "right," while Ismene argues in favor of established law. Each character represents one side of the argument. On the left side of the diagram below, list three reasons why Antigone believes she must bury Polyneices. On the right side of the diagram, list three arguments Ismene uses to try to persuade Antigone that Polyneices must remain unburied.

Antigone	Ismene

1. Based on the arguments listed above, how would you describe each character's personality?

2. With which character do you agree more? Why?

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Antigone: Scene 1 and Ode 1

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Internal Struggle

Do you sympathize with some characters and how they resolve internal conflicts, but not with others? Under each name, list an internal conflict with which that character struggles and write your reasons for supporting or disagreeing with the character's resolution of that conflict.

	Antigone		The Sentry
Conflict:		Conflict:	
Your View:		Your View:	
	Ismene		King Creon
Conflict:		Conflict:	
Your View:		Your View:	

1. What did you think about the Choragos's words in line 113 of Scene 1 when he says, "I have been wondering, King: can it be that the gods have done this?" Did your opinion of the Choragos change after hearing this speech? Why or why not?

2. Would you feel differently about King Creon if his first speech had occurred at the beginning of the play, rather than after the dialogue between Antigone and Ismene?
