

Dionysian Celebrations

- Greek drama grew out of religious rituals honoring Dionysos
- She was the Greek goddess of wine and fertility
- By the 5th century B.C. the tradition had become a large outdoor festival
- The plays were divided into three categories:
 - Tragedies
 - Comedies
 - Satyrs

The Ancient Theater of Dionysos



Features of the Ancient Theater

- All of the actors were male.
- The Chorus, which chanted or sung its lines, was made up of young boys.
- The actors could play multiple roles by switching masks.
- The masks had special mouthpieces that amplified the actors' voices.



Antigone Background Notes Part II: Vocabulary

So what is a tragic hero anyway?

Tragedy

 When a character (usually a good and noble person of high rank) is brought to a disastrous end in his or her confrontation with a superior force (fortune, the gods, social forces, universal values), but also comes to understand the meaning of his or her deeds and to accept an appropriate punishment (The Norton Introduction to Literature, 7th ed).

The Tragic Hero: According to Aristotle

- 1. Usually of noble birth rich and famous
- 2. **Hamartia** the tragic flaw that eventually leads to his downfall- a character flaw
- Peripeteia a reversal of fortune brought about by the hero's tragic flaw- the hero loses everything
- 4. The tragic hero must have an understanding of what they have at the end
- 5. **Catharsis**: audience must feel pity and fear for this character.

Other Terms:

Hubris: excessive pride (can be a tragic flaw)

Foil characters: two characters that highlight or emphasize opposite characteristics in each other

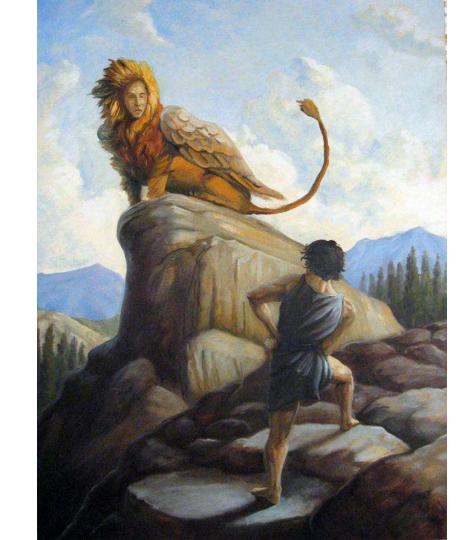
Antigone Background Notes Part III

The House of Thebes

Oedipus

- A king of the ancient Greek city Thebes
- Famous for unknowingly killing his father and marrying his mother
- Has his own playOedipus Rex

Note: We will read his story, but not the play.



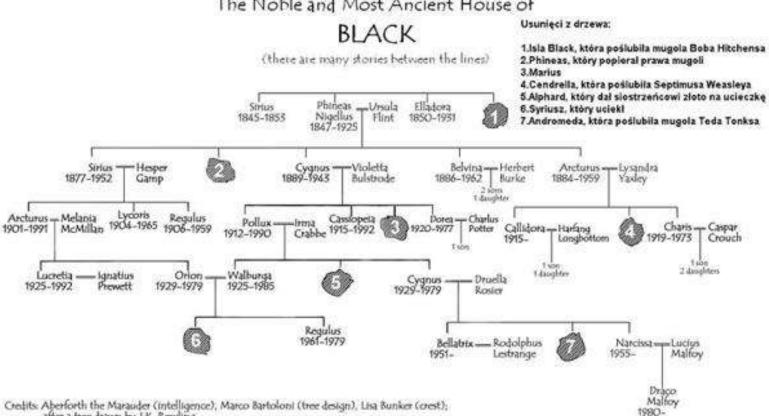
Antigone

- Daughter of Oedipus
- Princess of Thebes
- Ancient Greek heroine
- Sacrificed her life to stand up for what she believed in
- Has her own play,
 Antigone, which we will read.





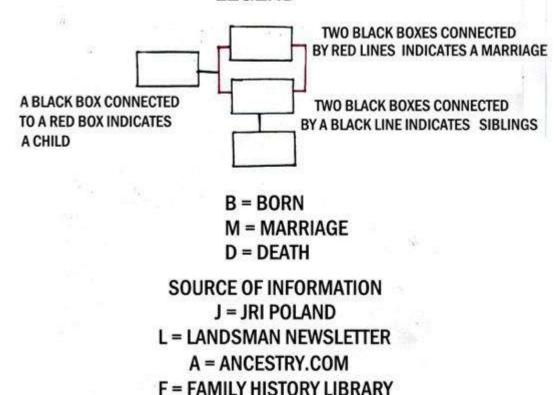
The Noble and Most Ancient House of



after a tree drawn by J.K. Rowling.

Key Male Female Parent/Child Divorce Marriage (or Parents of Adopted Common Child) Died at birth Twin or as a child

LEGEND



Your Assignment: Antigone's Family Tree

- On a piece of copy paper, create Antigone's family tree.
- You must include: Antigone, Oedipus, Jocasta, Laios, Eteocles,
 Polyneices, Ismene, Haimon, Creon and Eurydice.
- You must have a key or legend showing male/female, marriages, and deaths.
- Your tree should show Antigone's family as it stands at the <u>beginning</u> of her own drama.
- To get full credit, your family tree must be neat, colorful, and detailed.