

Greek Drama Test Review

Define the types of Greek Drama:

- Comedy-
- Tragedy-

Fill in the blank:

- “Hubris”: according to its modern usage, is exaggerated _____ or _____ (overbearing pride), often resulting in _____.
- “Fate”: the will or principle or determining cause by which things in general are believed to come to be as they are or events to happen as they do: _____. The Greeks believed _____ and that the path they led in life, was prescribed for them by the Gods and that there was _____.
- Entertainment is a bonus for the ritual audience; the goal is to gain _____ from the gods. _____ Theatre must entertain.

Define the Following Greek Drama Terms (It may behoove you to be able to label them on an Ode):

Chorus, Choragos, Ode, Prologue, Strophe, Antistrophe, Epode, Pean, and Exodus

Identify the following characters to Sophocles’ Greek dramas (It may behoove you to make a family tree):

Oedipus, King Laius, Creon, Jocasta, Antigone, Ismene, Eteocles, Polynices, Haimon, Eurydice, Tiresias

Text Summary: Answer the following questions concerning the text.

Oedipus the King

1. Where does the play take place?
2. When first asked for help by Oedipus, what does Teiresias do?
3. After hearing Teiresias’ proclamation, Oedipus declares that Teiresias is?
4. Oedipus left his kingdom because he learned what from the Oracle?

5. What does Jocasta tell Oedipus' to calm his fears?
6. Who is the person who reveals the final clue in the mystery of Oedipus' identity?
7. How does Jocasta commit suicide?
8. What is Oedipus' final request from Creon?
9. How does Oedipus blind himself?
10. What is the punishment Oedipus gives to himself?

Oedipus at Colonus

1. What was the second part of Oedipus' fate?
2. What is happening back in Thebes during *Oedipus at Colonus*?
3. Why does Creon come to talk to Oedipus?
4. Who takes Oedipus' daughters as hostages?
5. What does Polyneices ask Oedipus for?
6. Why won't Polyneices call off the war?
7. What does Oedipus tell Theseus about his burial?
8. Where do Ismene and Antigone go after Oedipus dies?

Antigone

1. In the Prologue who is Antigone speaking with?
2. What does Antigone want to do?
3. What is Ismene's response to Antigone's suggestion?
4. Why is what Antigone wants to do dangerous?
5. What reasons does Creon give for not allowing Polyneices to be buried?

6. What dramatic irony do you see since each time Creon refers to the “man” who has buried Polyneices?
7. Whose laws does Antigone believe she is following?
8. What does Creon seem to fear the most?
9. What is Haimon’s warning to his father that foreshadows his death?
10. How does Creon choose to punish Antigone?
11. What curse does Antigone put on Creon?
12. What is Teiresias warning to Creon?
13. Who are the three characters that die at the end of the play?
14. Why does the choragus address the audience directly at the end of the play?

Define the following literary terms and give examples:

- Dramatic Irony
- Tragic Hero

Critical Thinking:

- How would you describe the major conflict in Antigone? Is the conflict between absolute good and absolute evil, or is the conflict more between opposing views of what is good?
- Do you see Antigone as completely admirable and Creon as completely evil, or do you see both characters as more complex, as mixtures of good and bad? Describe your views of Antigone and Creon with support from the play(s).
- At the end of the play, Eurydice blames Creon for the tragic turn of events, and Creon accepts her curse, saying “I alone am guilty” (line 121). What do you think of Creon’s statement of sole responsibility?
- In lines 32-76 of the exodus, the Messenger says that Creon buried Polyneices first and then went to free Antigone. How do you think the events may have turned out differently if Creon had reversed the order of his task?