



TEACHER'S PET PUBLICATIONS

LITPLAN TEACHER PACK™

for

ANTIGONE

based on the play by
Sophocles

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TABLE OF CONTENTS – *Antigone LitPlan*

Introduction	6
Unit Objectives	8
Reading Assignment Sheet	9
Unit Outline	10
Study Questions (Short Answer)	13
Answer Key (Short Answer)	16
Quiz/Study Questions (Multiple Choice)	23
Answer Key (Multiple Choice)	37
Pre-reading Vocabulary Worksheets	41
Answer Key (Vocabulary Worksheets)	53
Lesson One (Introductory Lesson)	57
Writing Assignment 1: Mythological Tragedies	60
Nonfiction Assignment Sheet	62
Oral Reading Evaluation Form	64
Peer Edit Form: Writing Tragedies	66
Writing Assignment 2: Life of Sophocles	71
Writing Evaluation Form	72
Vocabulary Review Activities	79
Extra Writing Assignments/Discussion ?s	81
Writing Assignment 3: Moral Dilemmas	84
Group Presentation Evaluation Sheet	87
Unit Review Activities	88
Unit Tests	93
Unit Resource Materials	131
Vocabulary Resource Materials	147

SHORT ANSWER STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS - *Antigone*

Prologue and Parodos:

1. How are Antigone and Ismene related?
2. Who are the two brothers mentioned in the prologue?
3. How did the two brothers die?
4. What is King Creon's decree?
5. What does Antigone plan to do?
6. What is Ismene's decision regarding the King's decree?
7. What does the Choragos compare Polyneices to in the Parodos?
8. What city has "seven gates in a yawning ring"?
9. What does the Chorus compare Thebes to?
10. According to the Choragos, what does God hate?

Scene 1 and Ode 1:

1. Who is the new King of Thebes?
2. How did the new King of Thebes claim heir to the throne?
3. What crime has Polyneices committed in the opinion of the king?
4. What news does the sentry bring to Creon?
5. How was it decided which of the sentries would bring the news about Polyneices to Creon?
6. How does Creon believe the act of burying Polyneices was carried out?
7. What does Creon demand that the sentry do?
8. According to Ode 1, what is the most wonderful of all the world's wonders?
9. Of all the winds, man has made himself secure against all except one. Which wind is that?
10. List man's accomplishments according to Ode 1.

Scene 2 and Ode 2:

1. Who has the sentry captured and brought before King Creon?
2. How did the guards manage to capture Antigone?
3. How did Antigone react to being captured by the sentries?
4. What reason does Antigone give for defying Creon's decree?
5. Who else does Creon have arrested in connection with the crime of burying Polyneices?
6. Why is Antigone angry with Ismene?
7. Besides being Antigone's uncle, how else were Creon and Antigone related?
8. What is to be Antigone's punishment for burying her brother?
9. According to Ode 2, who is the fortunate man?
10. Who is the god who must not be made angry, according to Ode 2?

ANSWER KEY SHORT ANSWER STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS - *Antigone*

Prologue and Parodos:

1. How are Antigone and Ismene related?
They are sisters, the daughters of Oedipus.
2. Who are the two brothers mentioned in the prologue?
They are the brothers of Antigone and Ismene: Eteocles and Polyneices
3. How did the two brothers die?
The two were on opposite sides in the recent civil war; they killed each other on the battlefield.
4. What is King Creon's decree?
Polyneices was considered a traitor by King Creon for attacking the city of Thebes. Polyneices body was not permitted to be buried, but left for the scavenger birds and dogs to eat. Eteocles was to receive a hero's burial.
5. What does Antigone plan to do?
She plans to bury her brother Polyneices according to the laws of their God. She believes that God's laws are more important than man's laws.
6. What is Ismene's decision regarding the King's decree?
She is too afraid of recrimination to help Antigone.
7. What does the Choragos compare Polyneices to in the Parodos?
He is compared to a wild eagle swooping down on the city of Thebes.
8. What city has "seven gates in a yawning ring"?
The city of Thebes.
9. What does the Chorus compare Thebes to?
Thebes, in this case, is the personification of those who rise to defend the city. Collectively, Thebes is compared to a dragon.
10. According to the Choragos, what does God hate?
God hates "the bray of bragging tongues." He hates those who arrogantly brag of their successes.

Scene 1 and Ode 1:

1. Who is the new King of Thebes?
Creon, brother-in-law to Oedipus, is the new king of Thebes.
2. How did the new King of Thebes claim heir to the throne?
Creon is the brother-in-law of the previous king, Oedipus. When Oedipus' two sons were killed in battle, Creon was the next male in line for the throne.
3. What crime has Polyneices committed in the opinion of the king?
Since Polyneices broke his exile and attacked the city of Thebes, Creon considers Polyneices a traitor.
4. What news does the sentry bring to Creon?
Someone has secretly covered the body of Polyneices with just enough dirt to be considered as buried by the gods. His soul will now move to the Underworld.
5. How was it decided which of the sentries would bring the news about Polyneices to Creon?
Since this is terribly bad news, no one wants to tell the king. The sentries end up throwing dice to decide who will tell Creon.
6. How does Creon believe the act of burying Polyneices was carried out?
Creon believes that the sentries were paid off by his enemies and they were bribed to bury Polyneices' body.
7. What does Creon demand that the sentry do?
King Creon demands that the sentry bring him the man who broke his decree and buried a traitor.
8. According to Ode 1, what is the most wonderful of all the world's wonders?
Man is the most wonderful of all the world's wonders.
9. Of all the winds, man has made himself secure against all except one. Which wind is that?
Man has not secured himself against the wind of death.
10. List man's accomplishments according to Ode 1.
 - a. *He conquered the seas.*
 - b. *He planted and harvested the Earth.*
 - c. *He has command over the creatures of the earth (birds and fish as well).*
 - d. *He has created language.*
 - e. *He has built shelters against the elements.*
 - f. *He has created government.*