

Questions for *Antigone* (lines 720-1535)

Second Stasimon (lines 720-761)

1. According to the Chorus, who brought the disasters on the House of Labdacus? Why has this family suffered so much and made such disastrous mistakes?

Third Episode (lines 762-941)

2. According to Haimon, what is the reaction of the common people to Kreon's degree of death for Antigone? What advice does Haimon give to Kreon?
3. What is the point Haimon is trying to make when he incorporates the tree and ship analogies? What criticisms does Haimon make of Kreon? What threat does Haimon make?
4. Why does Kreon change Antigone's punishment? To what does he change it?

Third Stasimon (lines 942-957)

1. What is the main theme of this ode to Love?
2. What is the connection between the action of the previous episode and this song?
3. Can you find a lesson for Kreon?

Fourth Episode (lines 958-1099)

1. This is an example of a *kommos*, a song of lament in which the characters and Chorus dialogue. What new side of Antigone's character do we see here?
2. What does Antigone say she and Niobe have in common? What similarities and differences between the two does the Chorus see?

Fourth Stasimon (lines 1100-1134)

1. In this stasimon, three myths are used to compare and contrast with Antigone. Look at each example and see if it puts Antigone in a favorable or unfavorable light.

Fifth Episode (lines 1135-1290)

1. What dramatic purpose does the character of Teiresias serve?
2. What omens does he report and what do they mean?
3. Is Kreon's initial reaction to Teiresias's report surprising? Why or why not?
4. Why does Kreon change his mind?
5. What does the Chorus recommend Kreon do?
6. What has Kreon learned about law?

Hyporchema (lines 1291-1325)

1. Why does the Chorus choose to pray to Dionysus at this critical moment rather than any other god?
2. What request does the Chorus make?
3. Why would this *hyporchema* (a living song and dance) be used at such a horrible time?

Exodos (1326-1535)

1. Is the prayer of the Chorus in the *hyporchema* answered positively or negatively?
2. Why do you think Kreon goes to bury Polyneices first rather than go to Antigone as he said he would in the prior scene?
3. In his *kommos*, Kreon gives voice to one of the traditional themes of tragedy. What is it?
4. What moral lesson does the Chorus see in the fate of Kreon at the close of the play?