

**Study questions for *Antigone*, translated by Richard Emil Braun
Lines 1-719**

Prologue (lines 1-126)

1. What is the dramatic purpose of the prologue?
2. Briefly analyze the characters of Ismene and Antigone.
3. What dramatic purpose does Ismene serve (Why is she there? What does she add to the play?)
4. Where do you see examples of two? Where do you see examples of two becoming one? Look for more of these throughout the play.
5. Where do you see examples of the following antithetical ideas: private/public, divine/human, love/war, life/death, evil/good? Look for more of these throughout the play.
6. Where do you see antithetical (opposing) ideas in the language? In the play's structure? Look for more of these throughout the play.
7. What does Antigone mean when she says, "my crime will be my devotion" (l. 90)? What figure of speech is that?

Parodos (lines 127-195)

1. Describe the Chorus.
2. What is the Chorus saying has happened the night before?
3. What purpose does the Chorus have here?
4. Whose side is the Chorus on?

First Episode (lines 196-413)

1. Kreon's first speech outlines his beliefs. Summarize these.
2. What does he say is the outcome of his policies and beliefs?
3. How do these beliefs contrast with Antigone's?
4. What do we find out about Kreon's personality from the Sentry's words and actions towards him?
5. What is Kreon's reaction to the Sentry's news? How does Kreon treat him?

First Stasimon (414-455)

1. This stasimon is often called "Ode to Man." Is this a fitting title? Why or why not?
2. What are some of the achievements man has made, according to the Chorus?
3. How does the Chorus view human progress?
4. What is the warning that the Chorus makes at the end?

Second Episode (456-719)

1. What imagery does the Sentry use to describe Antigone when they catch her?
2. How does Antigone view the relationship between laws made by mankind and laws made by the gods?
3. What is Kreon's view of the relationship between man and woman? Of the importance of blood ties versus the ties of citizenship?

4. What is Antigone's attitude with regard to Ismene's attempt to share responsibility for the deed?