Antigone Study Guide

Background

* Know Greek Drama Basics (Definition of “DRAMA”)
* Definition of TRAGEDY.
* TRAGIC FLAW (In Antigone- this is ***PRIDE or HUBRIS***)
* Know minor background information on Oedipus (handout & textbook)
* Greek gods (know their importance in ancient Greece)

Tragedy Terms (Know definitions of the following):

* Chorus (definition and who they represent in *Antigone)*
* Ode
* Parados- aka prologue
* Exodos-last part of play
* Paean- song of joy or praise to the gods (*evohe, evohe* God of Many Names, etc)

Characters (Know who they are, their history, their relationships with each other, and what they do throughout the play)

* Antigone
* Ismene
* Eurydice
* Creon
* Haimon
* Teiresias
* Sentry
* Messenger
* Choragos
* Polyneices
* Eteocles

Plot

* Where is the play set?
* What is the central conflict?
* What is Antigone and Ismene’s conflict in the Prologue? How do each feel about the death of their brothers? How do each feel about each other?
* What is Antigone’s plan in the Prologue?
* Review Creon’s speech in Scene 1.
  + What does he say to his people?
  + What does he expect from his subjects?
  + What does he say should be ranked above private friendship?
  + How does Creon plan to deal with the deaths of Eteocles and Polyneices?
* What does Creon find out in Scene 1 and how does he react?
* What is Creon paranoid about in Scene 1? What does he say money does to people?
* What argument do Antigone and Creon have in Scene 2?
* What is both Antigone’s and Creon’s flaw?
* What role does Ismene play in Antigone’s fight with Creon?
* Why was Antigone willing to risk her life to bury Polyneices?
* What are the attitudes of Antigone, Creon, Ismene, and the Chorus toward the laws of the gods? Toward those of kings?
* What argument do Haimon and Creon get into in Scene 3?
* What is Creon’s fear if he does not go through Antigone’s punishment?
* How do the people of Thebes view Creon and his sentencing?
* In Scene 4, Who does Antigone blame for her misfortune? Who does the Chorus?
* In Ode IV, what three stories are told?
* What do Teiresias and Creon discuss and argue about in Scene 5?
* What is Teiresias’s prophecy?
* How has Creon change throughout the play?
* Who dies in the Exodos?
* What is the final message of the Chroagos in the play?
* What role do the gods play in *Antigone*?
* What role does fate play in *Antigone*?
* How is *Antigone* a tragedy?
* Who is a tragic hero in the story and why?