

Antigone Reading Journal

You will need to fill out this chart as you read the play. Please include quotations (with page#s) with your analysis and analysis of literary features when possible and appropriate. This journal will help you in the near term and the future. In the near term, you will use this chart to help you find topics and write a take-home essay. In the longer term, this journal may help you study for Paper 2 assessments and plan your official Individual Oral.

Themes	Checkpoint One (Pages 1-15)	Checkpoint Two (Pages 15 to 32)	Checkpoint Three (Pages 32 to 52)
<p>Relationships between Men and Women</p> <p>How is the relationship between men and women portrayed?</p> <p>What are the power relationships between men and women (or characters assuming male/female roles)?</p>	<p>In the prologue of <i>Antigone</i>, the relationship shown between men and women shows how women were known to be more inferior to men, as this play was set in around 441 B.C.E, the belief that people had towards Gods were much stronger, as well as following the hierarchy. As each gender follows different roles, the king is known to be a man, and more powerful compared to other roles, and especially compared to women. As Antigone wanted to go against the law just to bury her brother, Ismene, her sister, tries to convince her that it is not worth trying, as she believes that women are not strong enough to go against men, or to disobey the law. Ismene tells her that women are not born to contend with men.</p> <p>ISMENE. Now look at the two of us, left so alone ... think what a death we'll die, the worst of all if we violate the laws and override the fixed decree of the throne, its power—we must be sensible. Remember we are women, we're not born to contend with men. (70-76)</p>	<p>Throughout the play, the relationships between men and women shows the unequal treatment that women receive, while men have more privileges to be able to do certain things. While men have more privileges, they are also seen to be more powerful and important than women. This in quote, Creon mentions how men should never let women win over them, and men should not be as inferior as women ever were.</p> <p>CREON. We must defend the men who live by law, never let some woman triumph over us. Better to fall from power, if fall we must, at the hands of a man—never be rated inferior to a woman, never. (757-761)</p>	<p>As Antigone was explaining the reasoning to why she wanted to bury her brother, she had mentioned that her brother is irreplaceable, compared to a husband or a child. This shows that she prioritizes her brother the most, as no one else can be her brother, due to the fact that her parents had also already passed away, meaning that she cannot get a new brother either. This shows that Antigone does not really treat people differently based on their gender, but she would treat them differently based on what they mean to her. Antigone's relationships among people are not based on gender, but mainly based on how they treat her and their importance to her.</p> <p>ANTIGONE. A husband dead, there might have been another. A child by another too, if I had lost the first. But mother and father both lost in the halls of Death, no brother could ever spring to light again. (1001-1004)</p>
<p>Patriarchy and Feminism</p> <p>What does the work reveal about the operations (economically, politically, socially, or psychologically) of patriarchy?</p> <p>What does the work imply about the possibilities of sisterhood as a mode of resisting patriarchy?</p> <p>Do you think the work is patriarchal (supporting the patriarchy) or feminist (resisting the patriarchy)?</p>	<p>In this play, the belief of patriarchy is widely demonstrated by many of the characters, as men are shown to be more dominant as they believe that they are more beneficial compared to women. As in Ancient Greece, there would be a king who would be able to command and assist others; whereas, women do not have similar abilities, and are seen to be less powerful and less valuable than men. The chorus shows most people's perspectives on men, how they view men as valuable, and how they have an important significance in society. As only men are mentioned in the chorus, it indicates the role of a woman being less important and more inferior, showing the unequal treatment towards women.</p> <p>CHORUS. Man the skilled, the brilliant! He conquers all, taming with his techniques the prey that roams the cliffs and wild lairs, training the stallion, clamping the yoke across his shaggy neck, and the tireless mountain bull. (390-394)</p>	<p>As patriarchy was a big part of society, men were always seen to be far more superior, stronger, and powerful than women. They were able to make their own decisions and do mostly anything they want, whereas women were seen to be weaker and were believed that they cannot stand up for themselves or do certain things that men can do. Antigone and Ismene had to face the consequence of death after breaking the law of burying her brother. This was uncommon as people usually feared breaking the law as they would get killed, but Antigone felt that family was more important than the law. Creon instructed the guards to tie them up and to not let them run loose anymore, so that they will act more like women. A literary device used in this quote is simile, mentioning how Antigone and Ismene will now act like women, instead of how they had acted previously.</p> <p>CREON. Stop wasting time. Take them in. From now on they'll act like women. Tie them up, no more running loose; even the bravest will cut and run, once they see Death coming for their lives. (651-655)</p>	<p>As women were mainly seen to be inferior and weak in this play, Antigone felt powerless and upset that no one would honor her death or mourn her, the same way that she had done for her brother. Antigone compares herself to Niobe, a former Queen of Thebes, not strictly a god, but moved in terms of equality with the gods. As Antigone feels that she would die by herself, without anyone being able to honor her death or mourn her, she compares herself to Niobe as she had experienced a similar situation. The chorus then tries to tell Antigone that she should not feel weak or isolated, but she should feel powerful and strong, like a goddess.</p> <p>CHORUS. But she was a god, born of gods, and we are only mortals born to die. And yet, of course, it's a great thing for a dying girl to hear, even to hear she shares a destiny equal to the gods, during life and later, once she's dead. (925-930)</p>
<p>Citizenship, Law, and the State</p> <p>What does the work say about obligations to family and obligations to authority?</p>	<p>As Antigone hopes to be able to bury her brother, it is against the law and her only choice to perform a burial is if she disobeys the law. If Antigone were to disobey the law, she would face the consequence of being stoned to</p>	<p>While Antigone knows that disobeying the law would lead to the consequence of death if anyone finds out that she broke the law, she is still willing to break the law as she cares more about honoring her brother's death. She</p>	<p>While Antigone is receiving the consequence that she knows would happen if she decides to break the law, Creon treats her brutally, referring to her as a stranger, instead of a citizen. "Stranger's rights" refers to the</p>

<p>What does the work say about human laws and religious laws?</p> <p>When and to what extent is civil disobedience justifiable?</p>	<p>death. Despite knowing about the consequence, Antigone believes that her brother should have an honorable death, and she believes that if Ismene were to not help her with the burial, she would be a coward. This shows that Antigone thinks that family obligations are more important than obligations to the authority. ANTIGONE. He won't treat the matter lightly. Whoever disobeys in the least will die, his doom is sealed: stoning to death inside the city walls! (41-43)</p>	<p>believes that burying her brother is more worthy and important than her own life, showing that she is more obligated to her family than the authority. ANTIGONE. These laws—I was not about to break them, not out of fear of some man's wounded pride, and face the retribution of the gods. Die I must, I've known it all my life—how could I keep from knowing?—even without your death-sentence ringing in my ears. (509-515)</p>	<p>status of a resident alien who was not a full citizen. In this quote, Creon refers to Antigone as if she had already forfeited her citizenship because of her actions and had already become a resident alien. CREON. Take her away, quickly! Wall her up in the tomb, you have your orders. Abandon her there, alone, and let her choose—death or a buried life with a good roof for shelter. As for myself, my hands are clean. This young girl—dead or alive, she will be stripped of her rights, her stranger's rights, here in the world above. (971-977)</p>
<p>Connections</p> <p>What connections can you find between <i>Antigone</i> and our other works (<i>A Doll's House</i>, Liza Donnelly's Cartoons)?</p> <p>How do these works address ideas similarly and differently?</p>	<p>Throughout the units in class, <i>A Doll's House</i>, Liza Donnelly's Cartoons, and <i>Antigone</i>, the similar main idea of feminism and gender inequality has been brought up, conveying how women had been treated unequally throughout different times in history, and how women had overcome these obstacles of being looked down on. Each unit portrays the idea of how men are known to be more dominant, and how women have always been more dependent and submissive. Liza Donnelly's cartoons advocate social issues, leaning more towards gender inequality and feminism. <i>A Doll's House</i> and <i>Antigone</i> demonstrates the idea of how people in the past believed in the supremacy of men, and how some women believe that they can fight for their own rights.</p>	<p>As this play focuses on the idea of patriarchy and the relationship between men and women, <i>A Doll's House</i> focuses on the same idea as well. There are some similarities between Antigone and Nora, from <i>A Doll's House</i>. Both Antigone and Nora are courageous, and would do what they both think is right for them. At the end of <i>A Doll's House</i>, Nora had left her husband, Torvald, as she believes that she is not treated well enough, and the role of a married woman has many restrictions as she would need to follow her husband's rules at all times. This is similar to Antigone, as she felt that the law restricts her from doing the right thing for her family; therefore, she broke the law in order to do what she thinks is best for her and her family.</p>	<p>When Antigone had been referred to as a stranger / resident alien by Creon, this relates to the idea of Liza Donnelly's cartoon, "I am supposed to be here". Both ideas connect in a way that shows how a character is both left out in a certain situation, but they know that they belong there. In <i>Antigone</i>, Creon referred to her as a stranger, which would make her feel less welcomed, even though she is a citizen of the city. In Liza Donnelly's cartoon, the woman might feel left out in the meeting as she is the only woman, and the men around her might not be paying as much attention to her, or are not letting her contribute as much to the discussion. Both women in both contexts are portrayed as being left out in where they belong.</p>
<p>Other</p> <p>What else interested you in the text?</p> <p>Did you have any favorite quotes? What and why?</p> <p>What literary techniques did you notice? In what ways are they significant?</p>	<p>In the play, Antigone is shown to be more brave and confident, while Ismene is shown to be more submissive and obedient. This shows that one sister juxtaposes the other, as Antigone would be more willing to do anything for her family, while Ismene does not, as she fears disobeying the law and getting killed. As both sisters contrast to one another, it means that they are foils.</p>	<p>Personally, I think that Antigone's character is quite interesting as she is brave, strong, and fearless. She does what she thinks is right for her family member even if it leads to her death. This was uncommon as women were always seen to be inferior and weak, but Antigone had broken the gender norms, showing that women are much stronger than what people had thought back then.</p>	<p>Something that I had found interesting when reading this play is when all of the characters die in the end. This made me realize that Antigone is a tragic hero, as she had stayed loyal towards her brother and family the entire time, and stuck with her beliefs. The play, <i>Antigone</i>, is a tragedy as it has a tragic and unhappy ending.</p>