Antigone Drama by Sophocles

“ The Greatest Griefs Are Those We Cause Ourselves.”

Genre : Classical Drama- arose in Athens, Greece, from religious celebrations. **The Theater** – Greek drama was filled with a spectacular display of a religious festival. Thousands of people would attend these plays that were performed during the day in an outdoor theater.

Tragedy and the Tragic Hero – During Sophocles’ lifetime, three playwrights were chosen each year to enter a theatrical competition. A tragedy is a drama that recounts the downfall of a dignified, superior character who is involved in historically or socially significant events.

Who was Sophocles? (496 – 406 B.C.)

- One of the great dramatists of ancient Greece
- Well known for Antigone. This play is regarded as one of the finest examples of Greek tragedy.
- Most Greek tragedies are based on legends or myths that the audience of ancient Greece was very familiar with. Antigone was written around 422 B.C.
- Antigone is based on the legend of Oedipus.

Brainstorm: Teacher on Board - Student Responses.. Notebook

- **What is Moral Principle? Some words to associate with morality and principle?**

Antigone Drama by Sophocles

- **What did Aristotle / Cardinal Virtues.. mini lecture… believe in terms of moral principle?**

Writing Prompt: Consider the following principles and rank them in order of their importance to you. Which of the principles might you be willing to fight for-or willing to uphold if it meant making a sacrifice? You will be asked to discuss your ranking/reasoning with the class.

- Loyalty or obligation to family
- Obedience to civil law
- Observance to civil law
- Protection of personal dignity
- Freedom
- Protection of community or nation

Preview – What is the play about?
In the battle for the throne of Thebes, Antigone's brother Eteocles(ETOCLEES) has died defending the city, while her brother Polyneices has died attacking it. Creon, the king of Thebes , has sworn that although Eteocles has been given a soldiers funeral, Polyneices' body will remain unburied. Antigone defies the decree and buries her brother, even though her sister, Ismene, refuses to help her. Creon then condemns both Antigone and Ismene to death. He changes his mind about Ismene, but locks Antigone away in a stone vault. Later, after the blind prophet Teiresias predicts doom, Creon decides to free Antigone,

only to find that she has committed suicide. Antigone's death leads to the suicide of Creon's son, Haemon, who was betrothed to her, and then to the suicide of Creon's wife, Eurydice.

Characters

Antigone/Ismene – daughters of Oedipus, former king of Thebes
Creon – King of Thebes, uncle of Antigone and Ismene
Haemon – Creon's son, engaged to Antigone
Eurydice – wife of Creon
Teiresias – blind prophet
Chorus – made up of 15 elders of Thebes
Choragus – leader of the chorus

Themes

*The tragic clash between moral and civil law forms the basis of this heroic tragedy.

Prophetic – Tragedy/ the nature of Greek tragedy
Sister Rivalry
Civil law –vs- Moral Law

Antigone Drama by Sophocles

What is Literature?

Of course we see it in short stories, novels, essays etc….

Literature is the written word and it is meant to serve a purpose:

Written to:

- Inform
- Entertain
- Promote Social/ Political Change
- Relate to the Human Spirit

Antigone Drama by Sophocles

Literature – Has an audience; it is a medium (device) meant to express ideas for which the author intends.

It communicates ideas & People connect to the literature on some level!