

Name:

Section: Reading

Date:

Heading: *Antigone* Reading Questions, Prologue and Parodos (692-696)

Answer the questions below using complete sentences. Each thorough and thoughtful response will earn 2 points.

Prologue:

1. What is Creon's decree? Why does he make this law? What is the punishment for anyone who violates his law?
2. Contrast Antigone's and Ismene's views about this decree.
3. What do Antigone's words "He is my brother. And he is your brother, too" suggest about her (33)?
4. What three arguments does Ismene mention to try to make Antigone change her mind? To which three events does she refer?
5. Explain Antigone's words, "You may do as you like, / Since apparently the laws of the gods mean nothing to you" (60-62). What do they suggest about her? What type of conflict is this?
6. What do lines 65-69 tell you about Ismene's feelings for her sister? How does Antigone take Ismene's words and twist them another way?
7. Which of Antigone's parting comments to Ismene seem especially cruel or hurtful? How can you explain or defend Antigone's verbal cruelty?
8. How do Ismene's final words summarize key elements of Antigone's character?
9. How does knowing about their beliefs increase the horror of Creon's decree?

10. Summarize the burial process by filling in the blanks below.

In ancient Greece, Greeks feared that the _____ would punish those who neglected minute burial details. After death, the family closed the dead person's _____ and _____ and began to prepare the body for the wake or _____. The _____ of the house washed the body and dressed it in _____ clothes. Then they placed the body on a _____, a portable framework. They made sure to point the feet toward the _____ and sprinkled the body with _____, which were believed to keep evil spirits away. At the _____, while the _____ waited near the body, the men entered in a formal _____, with their _____ raised high in the air. When the closest relative reached out and held the dead person's _____ with both hands, the other mourners began to _____ and _____. They also _____ and _____ accompanied by a _____, the reed pipe. These lamentations continued at the _____, the burial, which usually took place several days after the prothesis. Offerings at the tomb, consisting of mainly _____, _____, _____, and an _____, were made on the _____, _____, and _____ days after death, then again after one year, and on certain _____.