In the *Norton Book of Classical Literature*, Bernard Knox writes about the continued popularity and impact of *Antigone* since Sophocles’ time, both in translation and in modern adaptation. Knox identifies the book *Antigone* by George Steiner as “a profound analytic discussion of the impact of the play on modern consciousness.” According to Knox, Steiner considers *Antigone* “the only literary text” that expresses “all the principal constants of conflict” in the human condition.

As Steiner writes, “These constants are five-fold: the confrontation of men and women; of age and of youth; of society and the individual; of the living and the dead; of men and of god(s).” Moreover, Steiner singles out the scene between Creon and Antigone (II. 50-120 on pgs. 708-710) as especially relevant to these categories of human “self-definition through conflict:” “all five are at work in a single act of confrontation.”

Identify lines from pages 708-710 that contain each of the “five principal constants of conflict.” Write these lines in the chart below. Briefly explain why the lines represent the conflict.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Confrontation of Men and Women** | **Age and Youth** | **Society and the Individual** | **Living and the Dead** | **Of Men and of Gods** |
| Ex. “This girl is guilty of a double insolence, / Breaking the given laws and boasting of it. / Who is the man here, / She or I, if this crime goes unpunished?” (80-83)**EXPLANATION:** |  |  |  |  |

**NAME:**

**ANTIGONE FOCUS FIVE:**

Ismene tells Antigone, “I too have a duty that I must discharge to the dead” (II.138). Write whether you think Antigone is doing the right thing in trying to keep Ismene from fulfilling this duty. **(Write two to four sentences.)**

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**NAME:**

**WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IS THE GREATEST FORCE MOTIVATING ANTIGONE IN SCENE TWO – PRIDE, LOVE, OR PRINCIPLE? EXPLAIN YOUR RESPONSE in THREE TO FIVE SENTENCES.**

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