

Antigone by Sophocles (Published by Oxford University Press)

Approved for use in Communication Arts II, Honors Communication Arts II

Summary

Torn between following the new leader's rules and honoring her fallen brother, Antigone (our main character) defies the powers that be in order to do what is right. As her conforming sister and a chorus of sympathetic citizens watch, Antigone clings to her beliefs and rejects the hollow authority of Creon until her bitter end.

Connection to the Curriculum

Antigone draws attention to the difference between divine law and human law. More than any other character in the three Oedipus plays, she casts serious doubt on Creon's authority. In *Antigone* we see a woman so in need of familial connection that she is desperate to maintain the connections she has, even in death. Students are given a strong female protagonist while they study basic Aristotelian structure. Cause and effect relationships are studied as a driving force in Aristotelian tragedy.

Standards

Course Objectives (Benchmarks)

Reading: 1.2- The students read fluently. 1.3- The students expand vocabulary. 1.4- The students comprehend a variety of texts.

Literature: 2.1-The students use literary concepts to interpret and respond to text. The student understands the significance of literature and its contributions to various cultures.

Writing: 3.2- The students use a writing process that includes preparing, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing to produce a written text.

Possible Skills Taught (Indicators)

Reading:

1.2.1- The student adjusts reading rate to support comprehension when reading and interpreting narrative texts.

1.3.2- The student engages in connotative vocabulary practice.

1.3.5- The student identifies, interprets, and analyzes the use of figurative language including similes, metaphors, analogies, hyperbole, onomatopoeia, personification, idioms, imagery, and symbolism.

1.4.9- The student uses prior knowledge, content, and text type features to make, revise, and confirm predictions.

1.4.10- The student generates and responds logically to literal, inferential, evaluative, and critical thinking questions before, during, and after reading text.

1.4.13- The student compares and contrasts varying aspects in one or more appropriate-level texts.

Literature:

2.1.1- The student identifies and describes different types of characters and analyzes the development of characters.

2.1.2- The student analyzes the historical, social, and cultural contextual aspects of the setting and its influence on characters and events in the story.

2.1.3- The student analyzes and evaluates how the author uses various plot elements to advance the plot and make connections between events.

2.1.4- The student analyzes themes, tone, and the author's point of view using textual evidence and considering audience and purpose.

2.1.5- The student identifies, analyzes, and evaluates the use of literary devices in a text.

Writing:

3.1.5 and 3.2.5- The student produces technical, personal, persuasive, narrative, and expository writing.

A Note on the Text: (The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

Antigone is the third play in the Oedipus trilogy. It is a story of a woman who openly defies a decree because she believes the state law is against God's law. There are some implied deaths, including suicide in the text associated with war and imprisonment in the plot.

AP Connections

Antigone has appeared in both the open-ended response section and the objective section of the AP exam. Its political messages make it a great practice piece for the writing style required in AP III.

Additional Unit Design Connections

Coming soon:

To be completed during future curriculum development activities