Antigone Discussion Questions: Post your responses to turnitin.com by the end of class.

1. Is Ismene a weakling, a mere fence sitter, or does she represent a reasonable position? Support your ideas with textual evidence.

2. Compare and contrast Ismene and Antigone. Does Antigone treat Ismene fairly?

3. What is the main idea of the first choral ode on pages 17-19?

4. What are Creon’s values/beliefs? Support using lines from the text.

5. Why does Creon decide not to bury Polynices?

6. Which is more important: civil law or divine law?

7. Review the scene with Creon and Haemon that begins on page 37. How does Haemon’s attitude change over the course of this interaction?

8. How do we know that Haemon’s argument had some effect on Creon?

9. Read through to page 46, with whom does the chorus side?

10. Examine the conversation between Tiresias and Creon. Of what does Creon accuse Tiresias? What does Tiresias predict?

11. Were you surprised that Creon ultimately yields to Tiresias’ advice? Why or why not?

12. Is Creon’s punishment worse than his crime? Cite text.

13. Who is the tragic hero of the play? Cite evidence.

14. In what way is the final scene of Antigone similar to the final scene of Oedipus?

15. Paraphrase lines 1348-1353.

16. Do you feel sympathy with Creon at the end of the play as someone who initially tried to do good but was overwhelmed by the circumstances, or do you believe that he is a bullying, misogynistic control-freak who gets what he deserves?

17. Were you surprised that Antigone decides to take her own life? Why or why not?

18. Is unshakeable willpower a virtue or a flaw?

19. Overall, did you enjoy the play? Why or why not?

20. What questions do you still have? If you don’t have any, leave #20 blank.