

Antigone Persuasive Writing / Debate Prep

Although the title tells us that the protagonist is Antigone, some critics have argued that the protagonist is Creon. He is more complicated and is shown with more sympathy than if he were only a villainous tyrant. In the first episode he is already committed to a course of action which may be impious. The Chorus suggests that the dust on Polynices' body and the fact that the animals have not touched it are the work of the gods. The audience fears for him. His readiness to suspect everyone of bribery and the sentry's accusation that he is an unjust judge, lose sympathy for him. Such complication of character also serves to maintain suspense because Creon's decisions cannot be anticipated.

Can you make a case for Creon as the protagonist of this play, or does it have to be Antigone? Write a three-paragraph response using at least two specific pieces of textual evidence. Be prepared to defend your thoughts in a class debate.

Topics to Consider

Traits of a Protagonist

- Has a problem that needs solving
- Has the ability to act
- Has reasons to act
- Has something to lose
- Has something to gain
- Has the capacity to change
- Has a compelling quality
- Has an interesting flaw
- Has someone or something interesting trying to stop him/her

Traits of a Tragic Hero (the protagonist is also the tragic hero)

- Generally highborn
- Good
- Good intentions
- True to life – human
- Exhibits tragic flaw
- Causes his/her own downfall
- Evokes both pity and fear in audience

Predict the other group's arguments as well. Why is your character the protagonist, and the other character not?