

Drama

Please read the following plays from your textbook:

Aeschylus (*Agamemnon*, *Eumenides*);

Sophocles (*Oedipus Rex*, *Antigone*);

Euripides (*Medea*).

Analyze, compare and contrast the following characters from your textbook: Agamemnon; Orestes; Oedipus; Antigone; Medea. The ancient Greek dramatist dealt with inherited myths and myth-figures, but within this tradition he was able to tweak and shape characters in many ways. He would have several versions of a character like Agamemnon in his head, as he went about forming his own personal interpretation of the character. Try to see what particular tweak Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides applied to each of these characters, and then see what each triad--heroes; heroines--has in common among its three members, all characters in Greek drama. Are there sharp differences among each group of three characters?

Optional themes for consideration

Revenge Compare and contrast the treatments of revenge in the five Greek tragedies considered above. How does the desire for revenge differ between Orestes and Medea? Is Agamemnon vengeful?

Love Does love factor into the Greek tragedies we have considered? Is there any example of love included? What would you call Antigone's relation to her fallen brother?

Duty Compare and contrast the treatments of duty among the characters in the Greek tragedies considered above. Who is most concerned about doing their duty? Is duty enjoined by gods, onto some of these mortals?

Flaws Tragedy is about bad things happening to people. Aristotle thought this usually happened because people had some kind of tragic flaw which brought them down. Do our tragic characters, above, have flaws that bring them down?