

OpenLearn Animation

Antigone

Narrador:

Our story is set in Thebes, a city in chaos.

The main protagonists: Antigone – strong-willed daughter of tragic King Oedipus who unwittingly married his mother and killed his father - and her uncle: King Creon – a proud Theban.

Creon is King because Antigone's brothers - Polyneices and Eteocles- killed each other battling for the Crown. Creon craves order. He buries Eteocles but brands Polyneices a traitor, who must remain unburied and left as carrion. Disobedience means death.

Antigone is outraged. Failure to bury her brother will anger the gods and he will never find eternal peace. She asks her sister Ismene to help bury him but Ismene won't disobey Creon.

So, Antigone tries alone, but she's arrested. Antigone confesses to Creon with disdain - human law can't supplant the will of the gods.

Creon wants to appear strong. State comes before family. No mere woman will defeat him. He condemns his niece to death. Creon's son Haemon is betrothed to Antigone and begs his father to show mercy. Creon refuses. He orders Antigone be walled up in a cave and left to die. Ismene is spared. But then a blind prophet - Teiresias tells Creon the omens are bad; free Antigone or Thebes faces further troubles...

Creon relents but too late– Antigone has already hanged herself. Haemon discovers her and grief stricken kills himself. Creon's wife Eurydice also takes her own life after losing her son.

Creon realises his errors, but he's paid a terrible price and he is left alone in grief. -