

Antigone – The plot

Thebes, Greece. The brother Eteocles and Polyneices agree to share the crown but after Eteocles' turn he refuses to give up his rule and Polyneices is forced to go into exile. There he gathers an army and marches against his hometown in order to claim his share of the crown. Their aunt Eurydice convinces them under a truce to talk to each other. However the peace talks are unsuccessful. The seer Teiresias prophesies to Creon that he can save the city from war if he sacrifices his son Menoikeus. Creon refuses instantly but Menoikeus sacrifices himself. Nevertheless war breaks out and the brothers kill each other.

Creon, the new king of Thebes, decrees that Eteocles shall be buried while his brother is to stay unburied. Anybody who breaks the law shall be executed. Unburied Polyneices' soul will never get into the Underworld and find peace therefore Antigone protests this decision. She tries to convince her sister Ismene to bury Polyneices with her but Ismene refuses. So Antigone buries him herself and is caught. Before Creon Ismene states that she also buried Polyneices and he imprisons both sisters.

Haemon, Creon's son, tries to reason with his father so he would free the sisters. Creon frees Ismene but is set of the execution of Antigone. Teiresias prophesies to Creon that if he doesn't change his mind Haemon will die. Afraid to lose another child he decides to free Antigone and bury Polyneices. However, in the meantime Haemon has already found Antigone's prison where she has hung herself. In his grief Haemon commits suicide.

Personae dramatis

Role	description	size	gender	relevant scenes
Chorus	The Chorus is the Angel of Death. They are a dark and mystical creature who is not quite part of the mortal world but also not quite part of the immortal world. They can interact with the characters but only to their liking. They speak to the darkest parts of each person. The Chorus loves chaos and death so they convince the characters to do what the Chorus wants. Like that the Chorus wreaks havoc upon everyone and enjoys it.	major	cross-cast	1 2 3 4 7 8 9 Monologue
Eteocles	Eteocles is the oldest brother of the royal family and the successor to the throne of Thebes. He quickly revokes the agreement he had with his brother Polyneices because he puts power before anything else. It doesn't matter to him what others say or think. His mind is set on power and he is willing to sacrifice even his city to die in the fight for power.	medium	male	1 3
Polyneices	Polyneices is Eteocles' little brother. Because of the contract with his brother he was looking forward to becoming king. When he was denied that, he resourcefully made new friends and brought an army to Thebes. In his wounded pride he demands only his share. He doesn't really want to bring war upon his home but cannot wait to put his brother in his place.	medium	male	1 3

Antigone	Antigone is the sister of the fighting brothers and the fiancé of Haemon. She is just as stubborn and headstrong as her brother Eteocles. When king Creon proclaims that Polyneices won't be buried she does everything in her power to prevent that, so Polyneices' soul won't be lost forever. She is fully aware of the consequences of her actions. She knows that she must die for the burial and almost takes pride in her death. In her fight against Creon she loses sight of the people who support and love her.	major	female	3 4 5 6 8 Monologue
Ismene	Ismene is the youngest of the siblings but the most rational one. She is devastated by the death of her brothers but she doesn't see the point of dying as well to save Polyneices' soul. She tries to convince Antigone not to bury him and to stay with her as they are pretty much the only ones left from their family. When Antigone buries him anyways she chooses loyalty and stands with her sister, although she could be executed for that. Family means everything for her, so she would rather be with her family in the Underworld than to be alive without them.	medium	female	4 5 8
Creon	Creon is the uncle of the siblings and Eteocles' advisor. He calms Eteocles in his anger and reasons with him about tactics. He loves his city but not as much as his family. When he has to choose between the survival of the city and the survival of his son Menoikeus he doesn't even take a second to think. He sends his son away to save him. When he unexpectedly becomes king right after a war, he is very insecure and wants to bring stability to Thebes. He tries to rule in the interest of Eteocles and stick to his promises. He hides his insecurity by being strict and in that loses sight of what is good and just. He starts by being very reasonable and ends by being blinded by hate.	major	male	2 4 7 8 9 Monologue
Eurydice	Eurydice is Creon's wife (or husband). She is empathetic and tries to understand everyone. In many conflict situations she serves as a mediator. She tries to reason with Eteocles and Polyneices to end their strife but also she tries to convince her husband to pardon Antigone and bury Polyneices.	medium	cross-cast	1 3 7
Haemon	Haemon is the son (or daughter) of Creon and Eurydice and the fiancé of Antigone. Like his mother he is empathetic. He loves Antigone without any limits but he is hurt a lot by her decision to bury her brother and by that leave him. He knows his father's law is unjust and tries to persuade him gently to change his opinion. He is the voice of reason most of the time but eventually when he has to choose between Antigone and his father he chooses Antigone and therefore death.	medium	cross-cast	6 8 9
Menoikeus	Menoikeus is the youngest son (or daughter) of Creon and Eurydice. He has a thirst for action and a need to prove himself. When he hears that he might be able to save the city if Creon sacrifices him, he is enthusiastic about being the hero that saves the day. He is disgusted	minor	cross-cast	2

	by his father's cowardice when he sends Menoikeus away. Nevertheless he sacrifices himself – unfortunately for nothing because it was not Creon who sacrificed him.			
Teiresias	Teiresias is the seer of Thebes and can therefore talk to the gods. They know what kind of dangers their occupation may bring so they are careful in what they say. But eventually they must say what has been prophesied and when they do so they don't really care about the feelings of others. They don't give a hoot about what people say about them.	medium	cross-cast	2
Guard	The Guard is supposed to watch over Polyneices' body and make sure he isn't buried. When they fail, they procrastinate telling Creon a lot. They beat around the bush and try to manoeuvre themselves out of possible punishment. Although they do respect Creon they very impolite in annoying the crap out of him. They are the comic relief.	minor	cross-cast	7 8
Messenger	The Messenger narrates the plot that happens of the battlefield. They are the most formable character and I'm looking forward to your interpretation of the part.	minor	cross-cast	3
Extras:				
servants	There are two servants needed in the play. They are non-speaking parts who come onstage about 2-3 times to bring someone on stage or take someone off stage.	minor	cross-cast	
dancers	There are about 12 dancers, who impersonate the voice of the city and its people. They are the warriors of Eteocles and citizens of Thebes. In about 3 expressive dances they fight for Eteocles, support Antigone burying Polyneices and protest Creon's decision to kill Antigone. During the dance they use mud, blood and graffiti. It will be dirty and it will be fun! Fyi: There will be no extra Castings for the dancers. If you are up for the task then come talk to me. The dance rehearsals will start right away and will be incorporated into the acting scenes asap.	medium	cross-cast	