Name:   
*Antigone* Scene 2 and ode 2

Scene 2

1. As the scene begins, what has the sentry brought to creon?

ANTIGONE!

1. How did the sentry find/catch this?

Antigone returned to the scene of the crime to recover Polyneices’s body which had been dusted off. She was caught red-handed.

1. What does the sentry compare Antigone to when she discovers that Polyneices’s corpse has been unburied? How does this simile make you feel about Antigone?

A mother bird returning to a stripped nest, crying sounds of sorrow.

Antigone is acting out of motherly instinct to protect and care for her brother. She are supposed to feel pity and sadness for her in this moment.

1. How does Antigone explain her actions and her thoughts on death?

Everyone is going to die. She would rather die a bit sooner, but with honor, than to live a longer life with the pain and guilt in knowing she didn’t do anything to save her brother’s soul.

1. Creon states that “the inflexible heart breaks first.” To what is he referring?

Antigone’s stubbornness/pride!

1. Antigone is guilty of double insolence:
   1. Breaking the law
   2. Boasting of it
2. After creon orders the death of ismene as well, what is antigone’s reponse?

Just kill me now! What more do you want with me? You can have me, leave everyone else out of it.

1. When ismene is brough into the room, what shocking twist does she confess?

Ismene confesses her guilt! She does not want to live without her sister, so she too says she must die for the crime.

1. Why do you think ismene changes her mind about her brother’s burial? Do you think Antigone is justified in rejecting ismene’s support, or is she being too hard on her sister? Explain.

Antigone is Ismene’s only family member left! She does not want to live without her family.

1. In **ode 2,**  the chorus makes an allusion to the Oedipus myth that we talked about in class. Why does “god’s vengeance” ‘loom over the house of Oedipus? What human fault does the chorus say is responsible for this “curse of heaven”?

Mortal arrogance! Oedipus was arrogant enough to think he could escape his fate! As a mortal, he thought he was strong enough, fast enough, smart enough to outwit the gods and run away from the fate that they had chosen for him.

This angered them!