

Antigone – Character Descriptions

Antigone: Sister of Eteocles and Polyneices, niece to Creon/Eurydice, sister to Ismene, fiancé to Haimon

She is strong, passionate, and full of love; sometimes to a fault; she feels a heaviness of duty to her family name and to the Gods, and to her, they are one and the same; fearless and thoughtful, takes risks, and is quick to judge; empowered by her defiance, she is proud, sensitive, and open, which gives her a gravitas that is new to her; a leader, but lacking followers; haunted by the curse of her family's past, she tries to redeem through acts of radical love, but sees the doom of her life as punishment for the curse.

Ismene: Sister of Antigone

She is grief-stained and horrified at the desecration of her family; she is haunted by past trauma and her family's curse, therefore risk averse, and seeks safety in rigid societal structure; a follower, hesitant to dissent; wants to do what's right, but afraid of conflict; she is suicidal and terrified of life without family, so eventually clings to her only remaining family member.

Eurydice: Wife of Creon, mother to Haimon

She has known much grief and loss, fighting a constant internal battle; depressed and suicidal; silent in mourning but deep in pain; seeks solace in prayer, but cannot find it

Creon: King of Thebes, uncle to Antigone/Ismene, husband to Eurydice, father to Haimon

A new-born king, fresh from war and eager to prove himself; has good intentions of ruling fairly and effectively, but forced to mask inner conflict when laws threaten family; weight of duty follows him. He is quick to judge and prideful, causing him to lash out when challenged or hurt; disappointed in his family, he becomes distrustful and blinded to contrary thoughts – an impenetrable edifice of correctness; unsympathetic and smugly satisfied as he grows into his power; weary from the struggle between ruling by law or love; finally moved by prophecy, is repentant and shamed.

Haimon: Son to Creon/Eurydice, fiancé to Antigone

He loves Antigone and is scared for her; sees no wrong in her actions; sees himself as a man of the people, and embraces the gray areas in life; empathetic, and sees good in all people;

Teiresias: a prophet

He is a blind oracle; mystic, wise, connected to the Gods, and emotionally affected by visions. His religious stature and other-ness keeps him separate from social/political hierarchy, and lets him speak with impunity.

Watchman:

the comic relief; loyal to the point of personal gain and safety; a worrier, but also an optimist – leans into emotions as they arise; has a quick wit and is illustrative in language, but goes on tangents and gives too much detail; quick to assume and to speak for others; an opportunist, not particularly skilled, but lucky.

Messenger:

The Messenger is forgiving, rational; sees beauty in joy and peace and seeks it out; stricken and shocked by deaths, but composed and dutiful.

Chorus:

Ideally the chorus will be played by 8-10 actors with a strong grasp on both speech and movement. The Chorus is a pivotal element to this story.