

## Topic A

Block 8  
Ayden Nguyen

detail?

Throughout history the conquest for power <sup>has</sup> divided society into two classes; one, where citizens are bound by common rule, shut from the freedom of expression bounded by oppression, and two, in a single person. Through the exemplification of power and its ability to guide society to one's wishes and intents, an individual who seeks power from his city comes to understand that power may not be equal to prosperity. In Sophocles' Antigone, Creon demonstrates the epitome of a stubborn, self-inflated individual who takes no regret in dictating the laws of his city, Thebes. By refusing to allow the burial of mortal Polynices, Creon's niece, Creon uses his power in a way that not only defies the laws of the gods, but also causes the Oedipus kingdom to fall in a spectacular surrender to fate ~~while illustrating the divide between greed and~~ macrocosm - ~~his family and Thebes.~~

Creon's rise to become the leader of Thebes follows the death of Polynices and Eteocles. Eteocles died fighting on behalf of Thebes, while Polynices sided with Argos, the enemy. ~~Physis~~ Physis states that all corpses, as a matter of respect, receive ~~a proper burial~~ a proper burial - a law agreed upon Thebes. However, Creon sees his ~~nephew~~ <sup>nephew</sup> Polynices, as no more than a traitor who shall be kept unburied under his rule. When Antigone is revealed to have violated Creon's decree, Creon threatens to ~~entomb~~ entomb her alive and continues to dismiss her opinions that, frankly, reflect that of the entire city. Creon is fully conscious of his decisions, ~~arguing~~ arguing that the city belongs to the king ~~and its~~ <sup>and its</sup> laws are dictated respectively. ~~Creon's hubris, therefore,~~ Creon's hubris, therefore, defies that of the gods, placing him in a position where his leadership can only be viable in "a desert island." (Haemon.). His domineering characteristics also ~~reveal~~ reveal his insecurities when met with ~~Antigone~~ Antigone, who defies the characteristics of the "ideal women" during the time a chooses to stand up for her actions, causing Creon to refer to her with masculine pronouns. By doing this, Creon ~~rather~~ rather than nurturing and giving thought to his companion's suggestions to bury Polynices, chooses to view her as hostile; much like a competition to win the male attitudes and, ultimately, the arguments. His hostility ends up becoming his major hamartia, ~~as his prioritization~~ as his prioritization of self-interests over those of his family, city, and onlookers from above, foreshadows a major reversal of the situation; a tragedy, as far as ancient Greek is concerned.

strong point

good thematic link

By seeking power over his subordinates, Creon continues to strengthen the divide between society and himself. He calls upon his own leadership like a captain of a sailboat, whom he leads to prosperity under his control. Yet, he fails to retain the trust of his own family; Antigone rejects Creon's notion, Haemon ridicules his father of being an independent thinker among his reluctant followers, and Creon's regime ensues. Creon's inner frailty finally creeps through the cracks when he entombs Antigone as punishment, instead of burying Polynices as prophecy tells him to do, he ~~effectively~~ "buries" Antigone, a living soul, highlighting Creon's impulsive yet senseless actions. Eventually Antigone, Haemon, and Creon's wife Euridyce kill themselves in response to the tumult brought upon Creon's wrath, whom prophet Tiresias warned of, and Creon initially neglected. When Creon finally gives in to Tiresias' advice it is too late to save his family, already destroyed by the fate brought upon Creon's hubris.

The divide between Creon, his family, and city becomes apparent when Creon finally wishes death upon himself, for the city is unneeding of Creon's wrath. Seeking power is not necessarily a major flaw in itself, but when combined with greed, conquest, and indifference to one's surroundings, Creon represents the captain who, when he refuses to ease off the sail, causes his vessel to capsize.

Strong conclusion

28/10