Antigone-

Day One lecture

Greek theater:

* more religious than entertaining- include a great deal of ritual
* minimum scenery
* stories were well known to the audience, based on ancient legends and traditional tales- attended to see an interpretation, not hear a new story
* tragedies were celebrations of the god Dionysus (god of wine and fertility) and the theater was a temple. Dionysius died each winter and was reborn each spring.
* in the spring, a festival was held- 5 plays performed daily for 3 days. The best received a wreath of ivy
* performances were vivid and exciting, colorful, though violence occurred offstage.
* The messenger explained what has happened offstage

Review the pedigree of Antigone’s family

Review legend of Oedipus

* Gods control lives, can do good or bad
* Believed in fate. A curse could haunt a family for generations.
* Believed in oracles- people who could predict future events
* it was predicted that Oedipus would kill his father and marry his mother, so he was abandoned by his parents and then found and adopted by Polybus.
* When Oedipus heard the prophecy, he attempted to protect the people he believed to be his parents by leaving. He met his father and killed him, not knowing is identity.
* Oedipus answered a riddle that “won” him the thrown of Thebes and then married queen Jocasta, again not knowing who she was.
* The prophecy had come true. Oedipus takes out his own eyes as punishment when he realizes what he has done. Two of Oedipus’s sons died at each other’s hands. This is where the story of Antigone begins.

Key vocabulary:

* hypocrite: derived from the word for actor because the actor played a role or deceived an audience.
* Three actors- played all characters
  + Protagonist: first actor, played multiple roles
  + Deuteragonist: second actor
  + Tritagonist: third actor
* Could have many extras on stage who did not speak
* All roles were played by men
* Masks helped define the characters as male/female, young/old, grief-stricken or hopeful

Structure:

* opens with a prologue- introduction of the conflict. Might include a monologue of needed background information
* followed by the parados- entrance of the chorus
  + the choral ode helps the theme develop and comments on action. Can even interact with characters.
  + odes and action alternate
* episodes are the action or dramatic scenes
* final scene is the exodus

prologue🡪parados🡪alternating episodes and odes (5) 🡪exodos

function of the chorus:

* set the mood and express the theme
* add song and dance
* give background information
* divide action and reflect on events
* question, advise and express opinion