

Does He Know What He Says?

Part A

Directions: Read each statement by Creon and beneath each quotation explain the irony.

1. "There is no art that teaches us to know
The temper, mind or spirit of any man
Until he has been proved by government
And lawgiving." (*Creon's proclamation of the edict*)

2. "But it is those that are most obstinate
Suffer the greatest fall." (*Creon at Antigone's arrest*)

3. "You shall not marry her this side the grave!" (*Creon to Haemon*)

Find one other example of irony in Creon's speech (or in Antigone's words, if you prefer).

Part B

Directions: Analyze each of the following situations and explain the irony.

1. Antigone was captured the *second* time she buried Polyneices.
(Why did she return if she had already buried him?)
- ✓ 2. Creon condemned Antigone for loyalty to her brother yet demanded loyalty from his son.
(What happened to Creon's family at the end?)
3. Creon buried Polyneices *first* and then went to rescue Antigone.
(Did the Chorus say which action should come first?)
- ✓ 4. Antigone hanged herself when she would have been rescued by Creon's change of heart.
(Why did Antigone kill herself?)

Find one other example of situational irony.