

World Literature: Universal Themes & Moral Conscience



Use the matching sheet ID when checking answers.

Read the dramatic confrontation below adapted from Sophocles' ancient tragedy *Antigone*. Analyze how the clash between King Creon and Antigone develops universal themes of justice.

1. Which UNIVERSAL THEME is most profoundly developed through Antigone's defiant declaration to King Creon?

Answer: B. The supremacy of higher moral and spiritual laws over unjust statutory edicts enacted by earthly rulers.

Antigone explicitly contrasts Creon's temporary mortal decree with the eternal, unwritten laws of divine justice, illustrating the universal theme of individual moral conscience resisting state oppression.

2. When Antigone refers to 'unwritten, immutable laws of heaven' that 'live not today or yesterday, but forever,' what ethical philosophy is she articulating?

Answer: B. Natural law: transcendent, universal ethical principles inherent in humanity that no temporal ruler has the right to erase

Natural law theory posits that certain moral truths are immutable, transcendent, and binding on all human beings, taking precedence over positive political legislation.

3. How does Antigone's view of mortality ('and if I die before my time, I count that a gain') heighten the dramatic tension of the scene?

Answer: A. It demonstrates that Creon's primary threat of execution has lost all psychological coercive power over her.

By embracing death as preferable to living in dishonor and grief, Antigone neutralizes Creon's ultimate weapon of fear, demonstrating moral victory over authoritarian tyranny.