

Mayra Leon  
10/27/13  
Period: 5

Imagine having you two older brothers dying while in combat, and having your uncle, the king, forbid you to have a burial ceremony to honor one your dead brothers. Antigone and her sister Ismene had that experience there brothers fought against each other in war. Polynices was trying to conquer Thebes and Eteocles was protecting the city. Eteocles was honored with his burial ceremony but Polynices did not get his burial ceremony for fighting against the city. Antigone thought this was unfair so she decided to burry her brother without him knowing. Antigone was more loyal to her family then to her country.

Antigone was loyal to her country but not as much as to her family. "I will bury my brother- your brother, too, though you refuse! I will not be found as a traitor (Sophocles 15)". Antigone was willing to pay the consequences (death) for burying her brother if anybody found. She unlike her sister was willing to die for her brother. Ismene was loyal to her family and to her country. She told antigone that she will not help her bury her brother but will keep her secret, she is in between she is being loyal to her family while being loyal to her country. Unlike Antigone who was going against her uncles laws.

Likewise, Creon also showed loyalty, but he showed it to his country. " This is my judgment, and never from me will the base take equal honor to the good; but whoever is friendly to this will in life and death be equally honored by me"( Sophocles 20). He did not let the fact that the person who buried polynices was his soon-to-be daughter in law stop him from putting antigone in a cave were she would eventually

die. But Creon also shows loyalty to his family like Ismene. After Creon talked to his son, Tiresias, and the chorus, he decides to let Antigone go and let her give her brother a proper burial ceremony. "I myself, since my judgment has turned and seen better ways, I bound her and I will go and release her, for I fear that it is best to keep the established laws as long as one lives" (Sophocles 54), but he was also loyal to his country.

Furthermore, throughout the whole story the characters have been loyal to family and their country. Creon had a change in heart and helped his family but it was too late because his niece had killed herself. Then later his son kills himself also after seeing Antigone dead. Creon's wife also killed herself and blamed everything on Creon for putting the country's laws before his family. Haemon was the only one who stayed loyal to family he killed himself for Antigone, who was his bride-to-be, and his cousin.

They all show some type of loyalty it's either to their family or their country. Because they are all somewhat loyal to each other their story is a tragedy. Creon realizes that Antigone was being loyal to their family but it takes him time. It takes the death of three people for him to see that being too loyal to one's country can be bad. Everybody in his family turns their backs on him his son killed himself for Antigone, Antigone killed herself so she would suffer and to prove a point, and his wife killed herself for the loss of her son. They all blamed him for something, and Creon realized that they were just being loyal to each other but him. "Yes, and you are responsible for these deaths and hers whose corpse you see before you" (Sophocles 61). The workers in his castle also blame him for the deaths of his family members.