

## WHS Book Rationale

**Title:** Antigone

**Author:** Sophocles

- **Intended Audience**

- English 10 and Honors English 10

- **Brief summary and educational significance**

- After an invasion of Thebes, Creon commands that the body of Polynices be left unburied and unmourned. Antigone, Polynices' sister, defies Creon and buries him in order to honor the gods. She is then sealed in a cave to die. Ultimately, Creon is punished by the gods.
- Classical Greek drama

- **Purpose of teaching the work and how it will be used**

- Example of Greek tragedy; third play in the Theban plays (including *Oedipus Rex*). An understanding of tragedy provides students with background that will be useful to reading of other texts (Shakespeare, Achebe, Miller)
- This play provides students with the chance to explore the role of the state and the individual, honor and love versus duty to family, and the role of free choice or fate.

- **Potential problems with the work**

- Suicide

- **Addressing potential problems**

The death of the protagonist (often by suicide) is a standard plot technique in tragedy. This raises the question of the agency of the protagonist, and free-will versus fate. Discussion of these issues is part of the understanding of all literary tragedy.