



**Antigone**  
From *Antigone*  
By Jean Anouilh

Age Range: Young Adult  
Style: Dramatic, Contemporary

Monologue:

“Understand! The first word I ever heard out of any of you was that word “understand”. Little Antigone gets a notion in her head—the nasty brat, the willful, wicked girl; and they put her in a corner all day, or they lock her up in the cellar and she deserves it. Why didn’t I “understand” that I must not play with water - cold, black, beautiful flowing water because I’d spill it on the palace tiles. Or with earth because earth dirties a little girl’s frock. Why didn’t I “understand” that nice children don’t eat out of every dish at once; or give everything in their pockets to beggars; or run in the wind so fast that they fall down; or ask for a drink when they’re perspiring; or want to go swimming when it’s either too early or too late, merely because they happen to feel like swimming. Understand? I don’t want to understand. There’ll be time enough to understand when I’m old... if I ever am old. But not now.”

Play Synopsis:

French playwright Jean Anouilh’s *Antigone* is based on Sophocles’ play of the same name. Performed under censorship in Nazi-occupied France, the play is famed for its seemingly ambiguous portrayal of the authority figure, Creon (as he confronts authority-defying martyr, Antigone, who is said to represent the oppressed people of France). While the play appeared neutral enough to be performed, it was nevertheless interpreted as an act of defiance and a critique of the Vichy government which had allowed Nazi rule. The play is a drama that both borrows and changes many elements of ancient Greek Tragedy. It explores themes of authority and justice, femininity, and sibling rivalry.

Read the Play Here:

[https://aphunniblog.edublogs.org/files/2015/10/Anouilh\\_Antigone-4-odifms.pdf](https://aphunniblog.edublogs.org/files/2015/10/Anouilh_Antigone-4-odifms.pdf)