

# Macbeth and antigone essay

Law



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Women are then seen lacking in male organ, which is representative of male power and male character traits; they wind up being referred to as objects because of the IR masculinity and lose their respect as human beings because they are women lacking male traits, being active, dominating, adventurous, rational, and creative. In contrast, the defined fem. lee gender role includes female traits which are identified as passive, acquiescent, timid, memo action, and conventional. Although the feminist theory suggests that females are weaker than males, both Sophocles

~~In Shakespearean Macbeth, Lady Macbeth demonstrates masculinity when she d clears, " Come, Unguent 2 you spirits/ That tend on mortal thoughts, unsexes me here,' And fill me from the crown to the toe topsoil/ Of direst cruelty'(Shakespeare I. V. 4750).~~

~~Lady Macbeth calls upon dark spirits hat " tend on mortal thoughts", or spirits that are prone to deadly ideas, to " unsexes" her, literally meaning that she wants to change her gender from a woman to a man and " crown to the toe top full", means to fill her entire body with cruelty because she wants male quality sis like aggressiveness, cruelty, or goldfinches rather than any female qualities such h as being emotional or nurturing.. Lady Macbeth wants to acquire males traits because males are Seen ruthless while females are seen as forgiving, so Lady Macbeth asks for muscular unity allowing for her to be " cruel" and merciless. Only then can Lady Macbeth commit ruthless acts to gain control of the throne without being weighed down by her femininity. In Sops cockle's Antagonize, Antagonize announces, " I am on my way," I will raise a mound for him, for my dear 95). Her loyalty, is seen when she breaks the law and burr sees her brother, who has been deemed a~~

traitor. Although Antigone is merely a woman, who according to gender roles should be submissive and timid, she takes on male traits like willfulness, bravery, and maintaining her own opinions and actions about burying her brother not only against others' disapproval but also against the King's law.

Antigone is very loyal and family-oriented and takes on a male trait so she can bury her brother at peace, while Lady Macbeth shows male traits, simply because she wants to kill Duncan, the king. In this case both Lady Macbeth and Antigone succeeded in doing what they originally sought to do when they acquired masculine traits; Duncan is murdered and Polixenes is buried. The attainment of masculine characteristics of cleverness and manipulatively, and willfulness were necessary for the completion of their desired tasks. For those moments, they obtained power because they rejected the defined female gender role to be conventional and timid, and took on masculine traits like bravery and cleverness. In contrast, Shakespearean Macbeth and Sophocles' Antigone both demonstrate that women cannot maintain power for long, because their female traits take over. In Shakespearean Macbeth, Lady Macbeth begins to feel timid and cannot kill Duncan because he resembles her father when he sleeps. "Had he not resembled/ My father as he slept, had done 't" (Shakespeare 11. 11. 1415). The fact that she saw her father sleeping in that moment also stresses that she isn't ruthless enough to kill her father.

Originally Lady Macbeth planned to kill Duncan herself but froze up, following the female gender trait to be timid, forcing Macbeth to kill Duncan. In that moment Lady Macbeth could have killed Duncan, and taken the title as his m

redeemer giving her power because she would become a female political leader. But she did not kill Duncan. Macbeth did. Lady Macbeth's tidiness took over, preventing her from taking the opportunity to kill Duncan, which would have given her power.

Further into the story, Lady Macbeth starts to sleepwalk because she feels guilty about Banquet's death. "Wash your hands. Put on your nightgown. Look not so pale."

I tell you yet again, Banquet's buried; he cannot come out on 's grave" (Shakespeare V. II. 6567). Shakespeare alludes to Lady Macbeth washing the blood from her hands after Banquet was killed, reiterating that Lady Macbeth feels guilty about Banquet's death; she gets up and "washes the blood" every night.

Shakespeare also uses characterization to show Lady Macbeth at her weakest. Before she was very domineering and manipulative, but now, she has withered into a woman so guilt-ridden that she cannot even get a good night's rest, again fulfilling the female trait to be emotional. She later kills herself because she cannot cope with the guilt.

In Sophocles' *Antigone*, Antigone tells Kinsmen she is not afraid to die for the crime of burying her brother and that she would rather be with the dead brother she loves. "And if I have to die for this pure crime, I am content, for I shall rest beside him; His love will answer mine" (Sophocles 7274). However, Antigone is unaware of how her death will affect others.

~~Hammond kills himself to be with her, when he learns of her death. "The n  
she will die...."~~

~~But her death will kill another (Sophocles 843).~~