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English Dr.Mandler

HW #23

There are numerous moments of catharsis in *Antigone*. One such moment of catharsis occurs with Antigone's lines on page 105 where she states "O tomb, my bridal-bed -- my house, my prison cut in the hollow rock, my everlasting watch! I'll soon be there, soon embrace my own, the great growing family of our dead," (978-981). There is a release of pity as Antigone gives her final words before being perennially locked up in a cave until death. The release is greater when you realize that Antigone will be another death added to a family already torn apart by suicides and prophecies. Another moment of catharsis occurs on page 126. Sohpocles writes "Messenger: She (Creon's wife) stabbed herself at the alter...with her dying breathe she called down torments on your head --you killed her sons...Creon: I shudder with dread! Why not kill me too?" (1426-1432). This moment is cathartic because the messenger has just delivered devastating news to Creon, and he is in such a state of dread that he wishes to die when he realizes that the reason he lost his son and wife was because of his own pride. By refusing to let Antigone be free of being jailed due to believing that his word is absolute, he caused his own son to enter a state of despair and commit suicide. This then caused Creon's wife to commit suicide out of grief.