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Dramatic Structure/Analysis

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### Medea: Structural Analysis Paper

The play is about a hurt woman who wants to kill the King, the King's daughter, and her husband Jason for betrayal but discovers Jason is completely against her and therefore kills her sons along with the King and the King's daughter.

Medea is the protagonist in the play *Medea* by Euripides. The play follows Medea's thoughts and actions in almost every scene in a way that allows us to see her change and understand her desires. The beginning of the play shows Medea mourning the loss of her husband emotionally. Jason has decided to marry the King's daughter, leaving Medea alone. Through her mourning, the King tells Medea that she is banished from his land and must leave with her sons- leaving Jason and his soon-to-be bride together. It is at this point that Medea's grief starts to turn into hatred. She must stop what is happening and hurt those who have hurt her. In line 422, Medea states "the day on which I shall make dead meat of my enemies." We can take this line to show her Main Action. Medea wants to kill her enemies, which include the King, Jason, and the King's daughter.

After declaring Medea's banishment, the King allows her to stay one extra day. Medea uses this time to complete her plan while continuing to grow in anger at her mistreatment. During this time, Jason talks to Medea and confirms that he has moved on and does not agree with Medea's

actions. In line 512 Jason lectures Medea in saying “all thanks to your demented rant, you’re getting thrown out from this land.” This entire speech causes Medea to grow in anger against Jason and tries to find a way to bring him the most harm.

**\*\*fix this paragraph.** In the midst of scheming and hatred, Medea is visited by Aegeus. Aegeus is having his own family troubles and deeply desires to have children, something that is not possible with his current wife. Medea sees his troubles as a possibility for personal gain. She convinces him to allow her safe haven in his land in exchange for helping his family. Medea can now go about her plans knowing she has a place to live after she flees.

This conversation with Jason will be considered the Major Crisis of my analysis of the play. Medea does not react very well to the insults and lack of support shown, and very quickly afterwards creates a plan to harm Jason in a way that does not take his life. Medea talks with the servants to achieve her goal, and while the servants try to persuade Medea to not go through, Medea completes her idea. Medea had decided to first kill the King’s daughter by poison. The King also dies while he mourns his daughter, and Jason is left mourning the loss of his future family. Medea did not stop there; Jason soon finds out that his sons have also been killed.

This leads us to the end of the play. Jason is mourning all that he has lost, all he wants is to bury his sons. Medea, in a Chariot, flies away with their bodies, taking away Jason’s last wish. Medea then completed her desire- causing Jason pain.

To review the main points of this play: Medea can be described as a hurt woman, because everything she has known was taken away, and her loved one has left her for someone else. From the beginning, Medea was mourning, and that sadness turned into anger over the course of the play. She hates the King for not trusting her and banishing her from the only place she has. Medea hates his daughter for taking away her husband. She hates Jason for leaving her and

justifying his own actions while losing his trust in her. Her decision to kill her sons to hurt Jason shows the changes she has gone through. She loses the love she had for her family and ignores her own feelings for justice.