

Sibling Paper Assignment

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Sibling rivalry is an longstanding and venerable concept. It is a concept that has been the focus of the theories of several individuals. Sigmund Freud believed that sibling rivalry influenced the personalities of children, and that children desired the sole attention of their mother. There is also focus on the origin of sibling rivalry and its effects on the individual. Ultimately, sibling rivalries are the result of jealousy. Sibling rivalry results primarily from the internalization of jealousy and its intrinsic nature. This concept is explained in Dede's relationship with her sisters in *In the Time of the Butterflies*, and Antigone's relationship with Ismene in *Antigone*.

In the novel by Alvarez, sibling rivalry is displayed between Dede and her sisters. It is most prominent in her relationship with her sister Minerva. Dede dislikes her sister due to Minerva's rebellious nature. After Lio gives Dede a letter that he wants to be delivered to Minerva, Dede recalls that she "wanted to hold the secret to herself just this one night" (Alvarez 83). She discovers that Lio was inviting Minerva to take asylum with him. The reason that Dede gives for burning the letter is the safety of Minerva. The implied reason is that Dede harbors jealousy that Minerva does not love Lio. Dede also recalls that she slept "holding her pillow like a man in her arms" (Alvarez 83). This implies that Dede was also jealous of Minerva's

relationship with Lio, and that she believes that she is inadequate in comparison to Minerva's accomplishments as a martyr for her country. Minerva is the first to join the revolution, and Dede believes that she is not safe. The jealousy that Dede feels for her sister causes her to withhold information from her.

In the play by Sophocles, the relationship between the sisters Antigone and Ismene shows sibling rivalry. Ismene is a character with more modesty than the character of Antigone. Ismene is more reluctant to follow through with Antigone's plan to raise a tomb above her dead brother. Their conversations show much animosity between the two. After Ismene decides to share the credit and the blame for Antigone's actions, Ismene asks her to share her "death and holy homage to the dead" (Sophocles 215). Antigone refuses, because she dislikes Ismene's passive character. Antigone chooses to not follow Creon's orders and to bury the dead. Antigone resolves her jealous feeling toward her sister by not allowing her to engage in the burying of the dead. Antigone believes that she has done something notable in this aspect, and that her actions will make her superior to her sister.

These two works of literature portray sibling relationships in two different times. They show that jealousy is an innate human emotion. Jealous inevitably leads to sibling rivalry and competition, from which early childhood personality derives and develops. The feelings of jealousy that the characters experience influence their behaviors. Jealousy and animosity between siblings is a large concept in both *Antigone* and *In the Time of the Butterflies*. The development of jealousy ultimately changes the circumstances that siblings later involve themselves and the decisions that siblings later make. In all sibling rivalries, there is an aspect of jealousy.