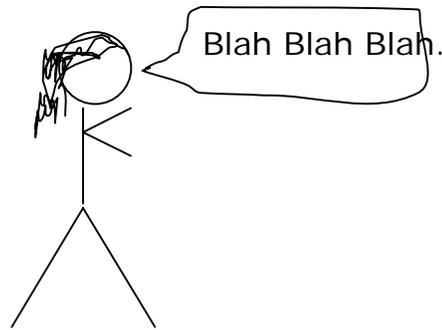


Study guide for Aeschylus' *Eumenides* (Furies)
Cell #1/part 1/The priestess speaks



THE PYTHIAN PRIESTESS: "First, in this prayer, of all the gods I name
The prophet-mother Earth; and Themis next, Second who sat-for so
with truth is said- On this her mother's shrine oracular. Then by her
grace, who unconstrained allowed, There sat thereon another child of
Earth- Titanian Phoebus. She, in after time, Gave o'er the throne, as
birthgift to a god, Phoebus, who in his own bears Phoebus's name. He
from the lake and ridge of Delos' isle Steered to the port of Pallas' Attic
shores, The home of ships; and thence he passed and came Unto this
land and to Pamassus' shrine. And at his side, with awe revering him,
There went the children of Hephaestus' seed, The hewers of the sacred
way, who tame The stubborn tract that erst was wilderness. And all
this folk, and Delphos, chieftain-king Of this their land, with honour
gave him home; And in his breast Zeus set a prophet's soul, And gave
to him this throne, whereon he sits, Fourth prophet of the shrine, and,
Loxias height, Gives voice to that which Zeus his sire decrees."

Summary: The scene begins with a priestess of Apollo standing before
his temple and before she enters, she first sermonizes about the
temple and the gods who had prophesied there including Apollo
himself, also called Loxias.

Questions:

Comprehension: What is the priestess doing?

Ethical: Why does the priestess do this before entering the temple?

Associative: What do people do before entering places such as
churches?

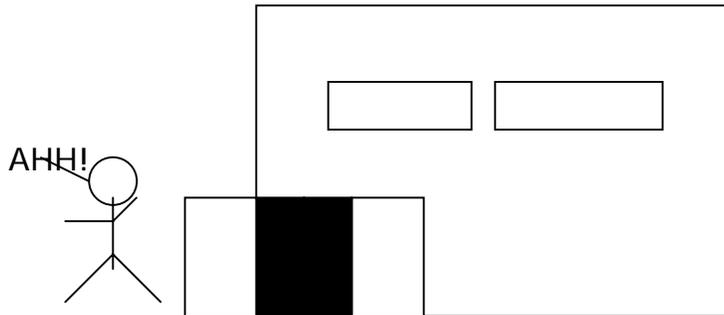
Predictive: Will she enter the temple after sermonizing?

"On this her mother's shrine oracular"

In the quote above, the word *oracular* means

- a) Mentally insane
- b) Very demented
- c) Prophet-like
- d) Always hungry

cell #2/part 1/Horror lies inside the temple



"...Fell is the breath-let none draw nigh to it- Exude the damned drops of poisonous ire: And such their garb as none should dare to bring To statues of the gods or homes of men. So fell a legion, nor in what land Earth Could rear, unharmed, such creatures, nor avow That she had travailed and had brought forth death. But, for the rest, be all these things a carp Unto the mighty Loxias, the lord Of this our shrine: healer and prophet he, Discerner he of portents, and the cleanser Of other homes-behold, his own to cleanse! (She goes out. The central doors open, disclosing the interior of the temple. ORESTES clings to the central altar; the FURIES lie slumbering at a little distance; APOLLO and HERMES appear from the innermost shrine.) "

Summary: As the priestess concludes her sermon and enters the temple, she catches sight of Orestes in the temple surrounded by the three Furies who are sleeping. The Furies are some of the gods before the Olympians who were forced into Tartarus, a place lower than Hades, their appearance of monsters, their hair is of snakes. She gets scared and runs away. Then Apollo and Hermes appear on the scene.

Questions:

Comprehension: Why does the priestess not enter the temple?

Ethical: Why is Orestes in Apollo's temple?

Associative: What would you do if you were in the priestess position?

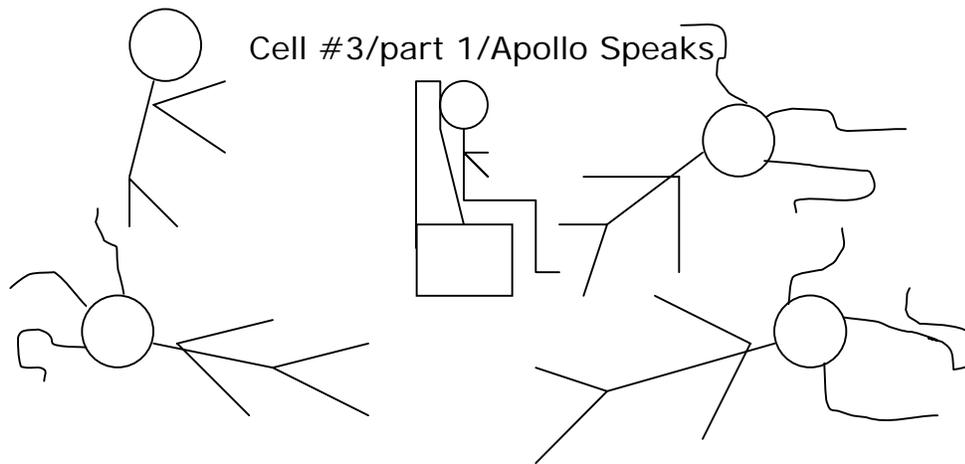
Predictive: Why are Apollo and Hermes there?

"healer and prophet he"

In the quote above, the word *prophet* means

- a) Worker, toiler
- b) Predictor, interpreter of divine will
- c) Killer, kisser

d) Comedian, student



Apollo (to Orestes): "Lo, I desert thee never. to the end,
 Hard at thy side as now, or sundered far, I am thy guard, and to thine
 enemies Implacably oppose me: look on them, These greedy fiends,
 beneath my craft subdued I See, they are fallen on sleep, these
 beldames old, Unto whose grim and wizened maidenhood Nor god nor
 man nor beast can e'er draw near. Yea, evil were they born, for evil's
 doom, Evil the dark abyss of Tartarus Wherein they dwell, and they
 themselves the hate Of men on earth, and of Olympian gods. But
 thou, flee far and with unfaltering speed; For they shall hunt thee
 through the mainland wide Where'er throughout the tract of traveled
 earth Thy foot may roam, and o'er and o'er the seas And island homes
 of men. Faint not nor fail, Too soon and timidly within thy breast
 Shepherding thoughts forlorn of this thy toil; But unto Pallas' city go,
 and there Crouch at her shrine, and in thine arms enfold Her ancient
 image: there we well shall find Meet judges for this cause and suasive
 pleas, Skilled to contrive for thee deliverance For by my hest thou
 didst thy mother slay."

Summary: Apollo is telling Orestes the history about the Furies and it was he who made them fall asleep before they reached him. Apollo then tells Orestes to go to Athens, the city of Athena and clasp her image. There the people will judge him if he is guilty of the crime of murdering his mother.

Questions:

Comprehension: What is Apollo telling Orestes to do?

Ethical: Why are the Furies chasing Orestes?

Associative: Do you think that justice will be served according to the way the Furies punish people?

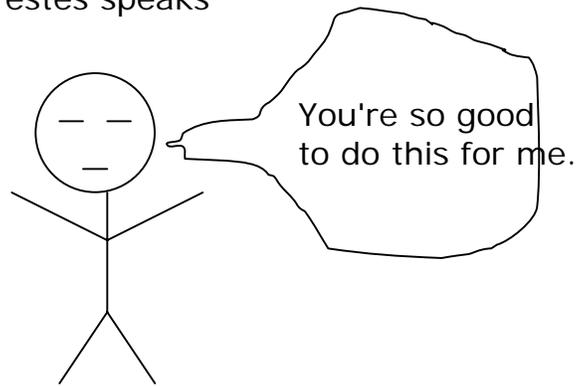
Predictive: Do you think the Furies will wake up soon?

"Unto whose grim and wizened maidenhood"

In the quote above, the word *wizened* means

- a) Young and rude
- b) Old and crusty
- c) Ugly and shiny
- d) slimy and amphibious
- e) Beautiful and painted

Cell #4/part 1/Orestes speaks



ORESTES: "O king Apollo, since right well thou know'st What justice bids, have heed, fulfil the same,- Thy strength is all-sufficient to achieve. "

Summary: Orestes is glad that Apollo is helping him to escape the Furies and that Apollo is the one who told him to kill his mother and that there was no wrong in it but only justice.

Questions:

Comprehension: Why is Orestes needing Apollo's help?

Ethical: Do you think that Orestes deserves to live even though of his deed?

Associative: Would you think Orestes did justice in killing his mother?

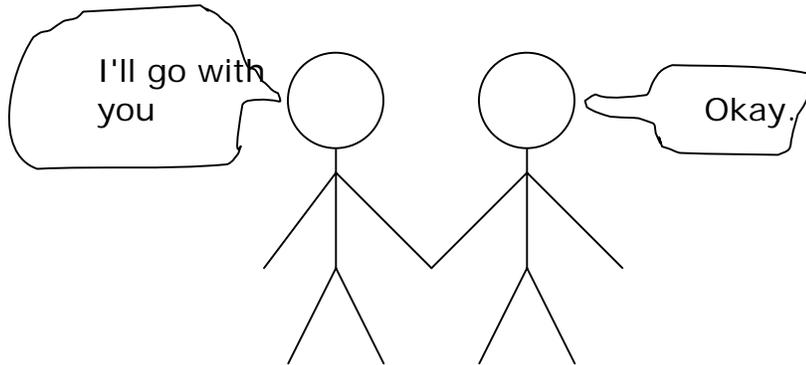
Predictive: Will the Furies soon find Orestes gone?

"What justice bids"

In the quote above, the word *justice* means

- a) Righteousness
- b) Wrongdoing
- c) Explanation
- d) Gullibility

Cell #5/part 1/Apollo sends Orestes with Hermes



APOLLO: "Have thou too heed, nor let thy fear prevail Above thy will. And do thou guard him, Hermes, Whose blood is brother unto mine, whose sire The same high God. Men call thee guide and guard, Guide therefore thou and guard my suppliant; For Zeus himself reveres the outlaw's right, Boon of fair escort, upon man conferred. (APOLLO, HERMES, and ORESTES go out. The GHOST OF CLYTEMNESTRA rises.)"

Summary: Apollo tells Hermes to go with Orestes and protect him for Orestes is Apollo's suppliant and that he must be treated well.

Questions:

Comprehension: What does Apollo tell Hermes to do?

Ethical: Why do you think Apollo is doing the right thing in helping Orestes?

Associative: Would justice back then be justice now?

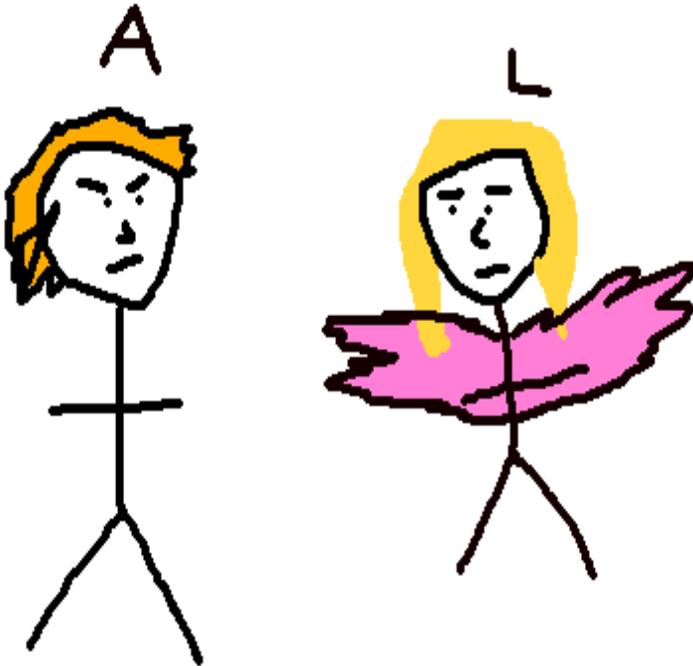
Predictive: What do you think is the reason for Clytemnestra's ghost to be there?

"Guide therefore thou and guard my suppliant"

In the quote above, the word *suppliant* means

- a) Chooser, gambler
- b) Petitioner, worshipper
- c) Wanderer, ghost
- d) Helper, Furies

Scene 3 - Cell 1



Quote: "LEADER From home to home we chase the matricide.
APOLLO What? to avenge a wife who slays her lord?"

Summary: The leader of the Furies is talking to Apollo about how he has helped Orestes hide after he killed his mother, Clytemnestra.

Ethical: Was it right for Orestes to kill Clytemnestra?

Associative: What modern issues relate with this story?

Comprehension: What do the Furies think about Orestes?

Predictive: Do you think the Furies will ever understand why Orestes did what he did?

Scene 3 - Cell 2



Quote: "But I, drawn on by scent of mother's blood, Seek vengeance on this man and hound him down."

Summary: The Furies leave to go search for Orestes while Apollo goes into the temple as the scene changes to Athens

Ethical: Should Apollo be helping someone who murdered his own mother?

Literary: What metaphor is used to symbolize the action of the Furies?

Comprehension: What do the Furies do after talking with Apollo?

Predictive: Where do you think Orestes is hiding?

Scene 3 - Cell 3



Quote: "Follow the track of blood, the silent sign! Like to some hound that hunts a wounded fawn, We snuff along the scent of dripping gore"

Summary: Orestes is clinging to the statue of Athena at the temple begging her to help him. The Furies arrive, happy that they've finally found him

Ethical: Should Athena help a murderer?

Literary: What metaphor is used to describe how the Furies are acting?

Comprehension: How do the Furies react to finding Orestes?

Prediction: Will Athena help Orestes?

Scene 3 - Cell 4



Quote:

"CHORUS (chanting) Follow, seek him-round and round
Scent and snuff and scan the ground,
Lest unharmed he slip away,
He who did his mother slay!"

Summary: The chorus talks to Orestes about him

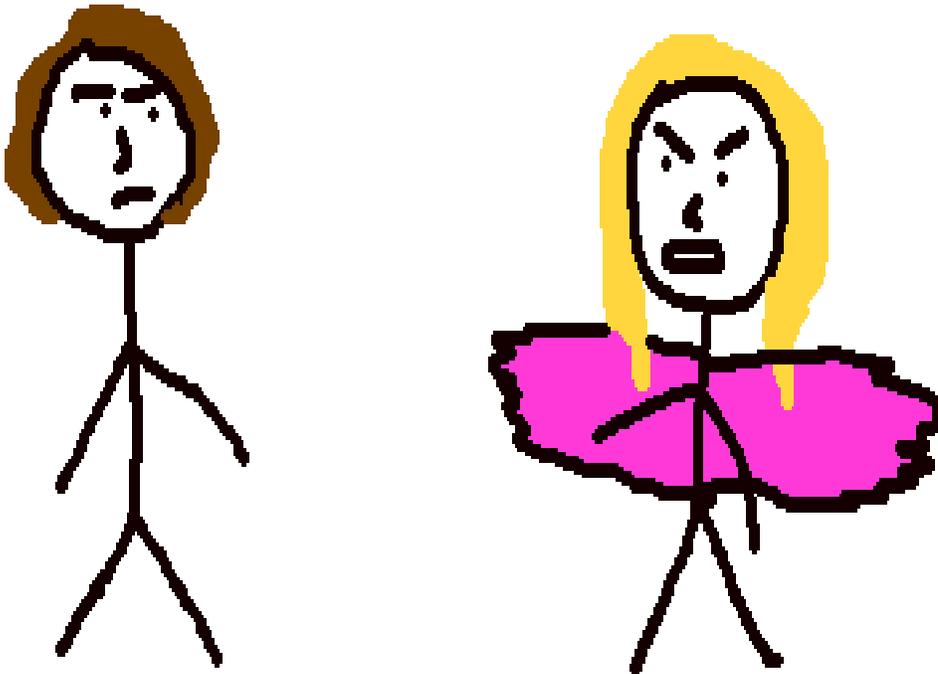
Ethical: Should the Furies give Orestes a chance to plead his case?

Literary: Can the Furies be seen as Orestes' own guilty conscience?

Comprehension: Who is chanting about what will happen to Orestes?

Prediction: Will the Furies ever ease off on Orestes?

Scene 3 - Cell 5



Quote:

"LEADER OF THE CHORUS Thee not Apollo nor Athena's strength
Can save from perishing, a castaway
Amid the Lost, where no delight shall meet"

Summary: Orestes pleads to the Furies, but they tell him he'll burn in hell.

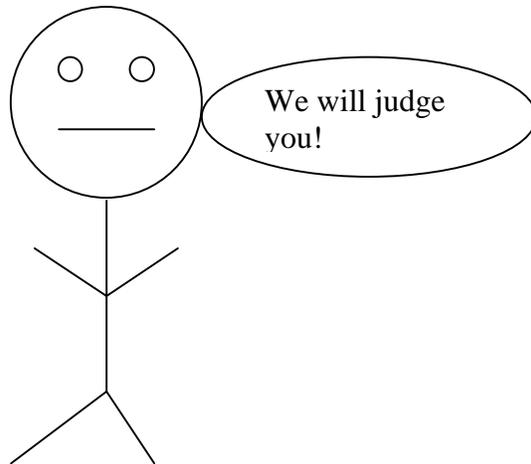
Ethical: Does Orestes deserve a chance to live?

Associative: What European conflict in the 1990s resulted in a revenge cycle similar to that of the Furies, Orestes, Electra, and Clytemnestra?

Comprehension: Has Athena answered Orestes' plea yet?

Predictive: Will Athena ever help Orestes?

Cell 1



Quote:

To utter forth the chant of hell,
Our sway among mankind to tell,
The guidance of our power.
Of justice are we ministers,
And whosoe'er or men may stand
Lifting a pure unsullied hand,
That man no doom of ours incurs,
And walks thro' all his unharmed by wrath.

Summary:

In this quote the chorus is chanting about how they the furies are the judgment of mankind and that they judge them.

Comprehension:

What are the furies chanting about?

Vocabulary:

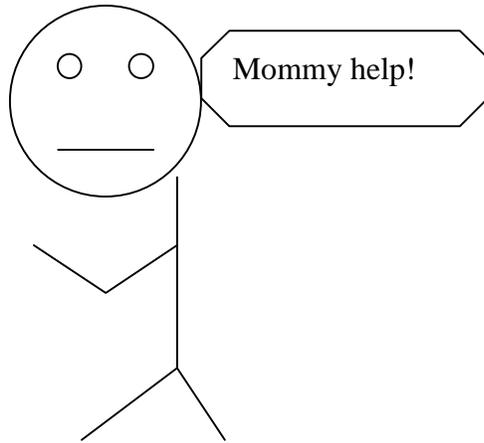
In the quote above what does the word *unharmed* mean?

- a. Hurt
- b. Unhurt
- c. Killed
- d. Banished

Discussion:

Do you think that the Furies should have this power?

Cell 2



Quote:

Night, Mother Night, who brought me forth, a torment
To living men and dead,
Hear me, O hear! By Letos' stripling son
I am dishonored:
He hath ta'en from me him who cowers in refuge
To me made consecrates-
A rightful victim, him who slew his mother,
Given o'er to me and fate.

Summary:

In this quote the furies are talking to their mother to help them punish the son of Leto who slew his mother.

Comprehension:

What are the Furies asking for?

Vocabulary:

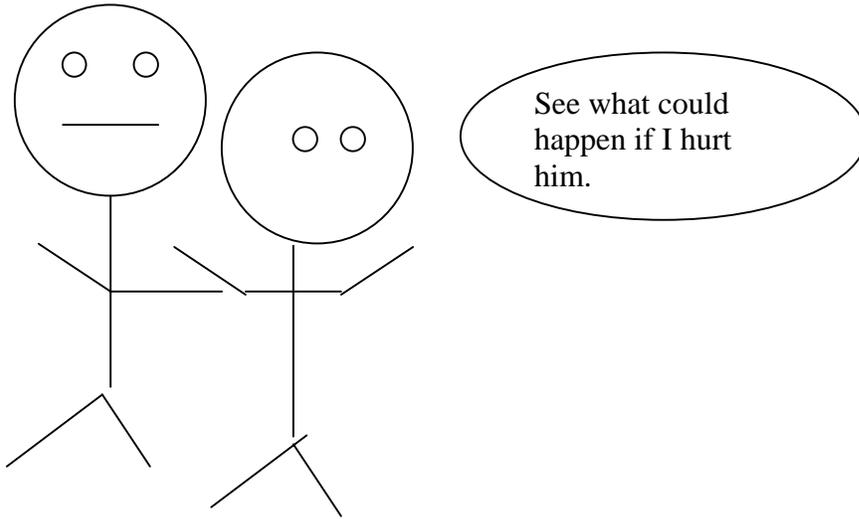
In the quote above what does the word *slew* mean?

- a. fought
- b. killed
- c. hated
- d. loved

Discussion:

Why are the Furies trying so hard to punish Leto's son?

Cell 3



Quote:

Hear the Hymn of hell,
O'er the victim sounding, -
Chant of frenzy, chant of ill,
Sense and will confounding!
Round the soul entwining
Without the lute or lyre-
Should in madness pining,
Wasting as with fire!

Summary:

The furies are talking to the night and saying how much the victim would suffer if they could get their hands on them.

Comprehension:

What are the furies saying?

Vocabulary:

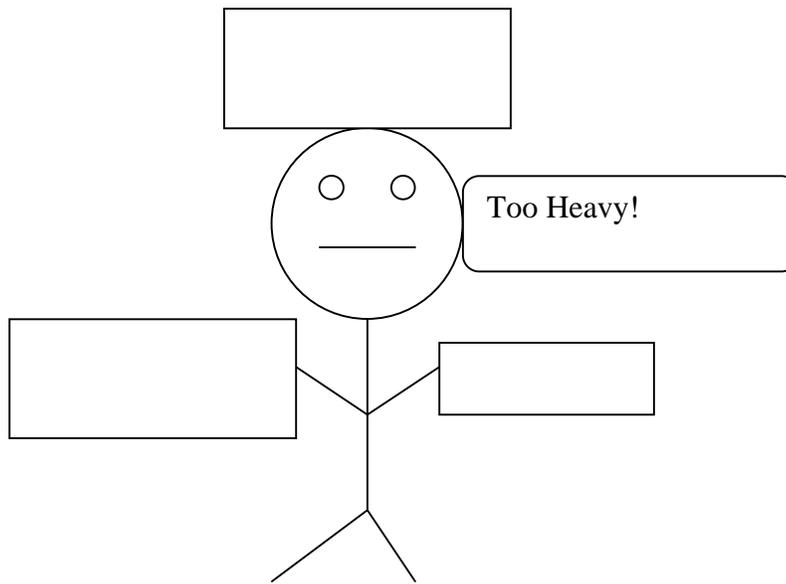
In the quote above what does the word Hymn mean?

- a. Song
- b. Food
- c. Dance
- d. Grace

Discussion

Do you think the furies are too angry with this?

Cell 4



Quote:

When from womb of night we sprang, on us this labor
Was laid and shall abide.
Gods immortal are ye, yet beware ye touch not
That which is our pride!
None may come beside us gathered round the blood-Feast--
For us no garments white
Gleam on a festal day; for us a darker fate is,
Another darker rite.

Summary:

In this quote the furies are talking about how when they were born they were already given such a great task to punish mankind and they have been doing it ever since.

Comprehension

What task were the furies given when they were born?

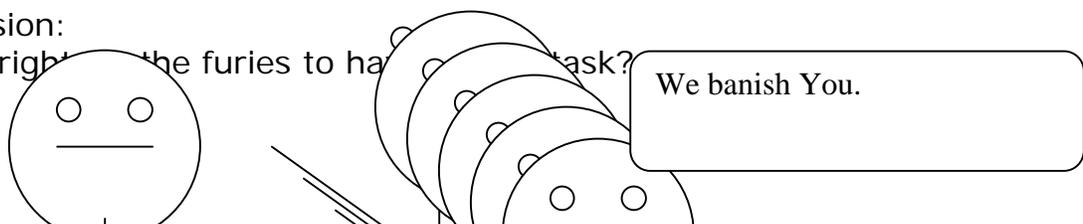
Vocabulary:

In the quote above what dose the word labour means?

- a. Work
- b. Fence
- c. Birth
- d. Desk

Discussion:

Was it right the furies to have this task?



Cell5

Quote:

I hold this task-'tis mine, and not another's.
The very gods on high,
Though they can silence and annul the prayers
Of those who on us cry,
They may not strive with us who stand apart,
A race by Zeus abhorred,
Blood-bolstered, held unworthy of the council
And converse of Heaven's lord.

Summary:

The furies are talking about how they do their task alone and their banishment from the heaven. Also how they are unworthy to be with the Gods of Olympus.

Comprehension:

In the quote above who are the furies unworthy to be with?

Vocabulary:

In the quote above the word *annul* means?

- a. Amplify
- b. Extinguish
- c. Every hour
- d. Every year

Discussion:

Why do you think that the Furies are not worthy to be with the Gods?

Test #6

Part 5 Cell 1



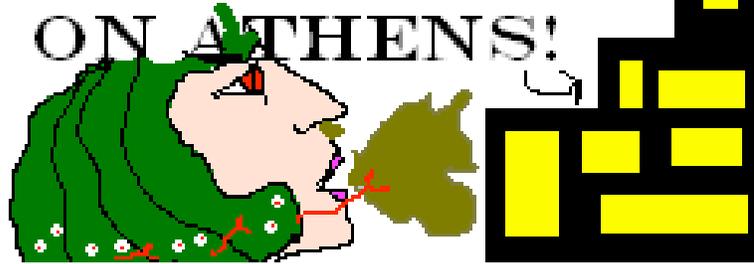
LEADER OF THE CHORUS: O child of Zeus, one word shall tell thee all.
We are the children of eternal Night,
And Furies in the underworld are called.
ATHENA: I know your lineage now and eke your name.
LEADER: Yea, and eftsoons indeed my rights shalt know.
ATHENA: Fain would I learn them; speak them clearly forth,
LEADER: We chase from home the murderers of men.

The Furies explain who they are and what their job is.

- What is the job of the Furies as described by the leader of the Chorus?
- Do you think it was right of the Furies to chase Orestes?
- How can you relate the Furies to modern day law enforcers?
- What do you think would have happened to Orestes if he had fled to a different temple instead of Athena's?

Part 5 Cell 2

**JUDGE
CORRECTLY
OR SICKNESS
ON ATHENS!**



LEADER Then test the cause, judge and award the right.

The Furies ask Athena to judge correctly.

- a) Who do the Furies ask to “judge & award the right”?
- b) Do you think Athena has the right to completely judge this case when she has connections with both the accused and the accusers?
- c) Is Athena similar to a present day judge?
- d) If the Furies were to accept a judgment that Orestes’ case was justified, do you think the play would end?

Part 5 Cell 3

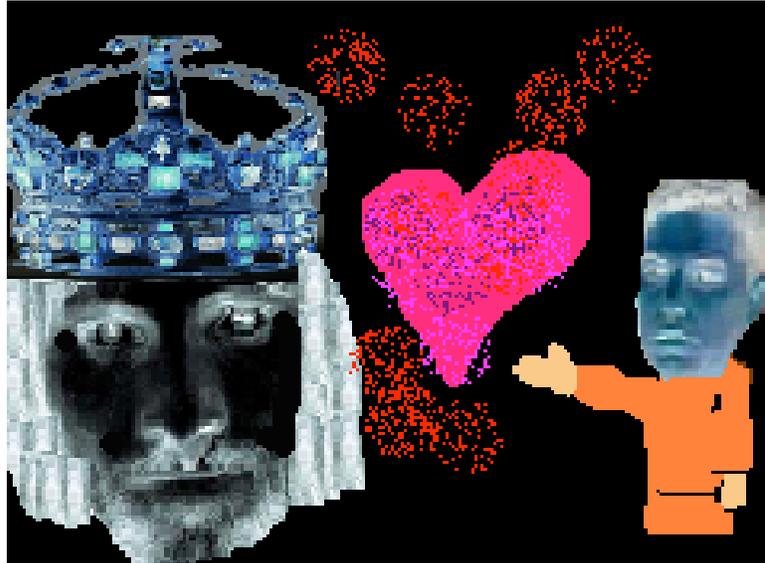


ATHENA(to ORESTES): O man unknown, make thou thy plea in turn.
Speak forth thy land, thy lineage, and thy woes;

Athena asks Orestes to plead his case.

- a) What word briefly summarizes this quote?
- b) Do you think it is right that Athena asks Orestes to speak forth his woes?
- c) Would a modern day court want to hear Orestes "woes"?
- d) What do you think would happen if Orestes truthfully told exactly what happened and not his personal feelings from his perspective?

Part 5 Cell 4



ORESTES: My sire, that Agamemnon who arrayed
The fleet and them that went therein to war-
That chief with whom thy hand combined to crush
To an uncited heap what once was Troy;
That Agamemnon, when he homeward came,
Was brought unto no honourable death,
Slain by the dark-souled wife who brought me forth
To him, -enwound and slain in wily nets,
Blazoned with blood that in the laver ran.
And I, returning from an exiled youth,
Slew her, my mother-lo, it stands avowed!
With blood for blood avenging my loved sire;

Orestes explains his love for his father and what happened.

- a) How does Orestes describe Agamemnon?
- b) Do you think Orestes is explaining that he was neglected by his mother when he says "And I, returning from an exiled youth"?
- c) Do you think you could relate Orestes' act of revenge to George W. Bush's insistence on war with Iraq after Saddam Hussein tried to kill his father?
- d) If Agamemnon hadn't left home to fight the Trojan War, do you think Orestes would still have been neglected?

Part 5 Cell 5



ORESTES: And in this deed doth Loxias bear part,
Decreeing agonies, to goad my will,
Unless by me the guilty found their doom.
Do thou decide if right or wrong were done-
Thy dooming, whatsoe'er it be, contents me.

Orestes explains his emotional turmoil that led him to kill his mother and her lover, and that this should be taken into consideration.

- a) Do you think Orestes' decreeing agonies would sway the Furies?
- b) Should the Furies and Athena even listen to his woes?
- c) Would a lawyer want all aspects taken into consideration?
- d) What would be the outcome if Orestes had only killed one of the two lovers?

Part 5 Cell 6

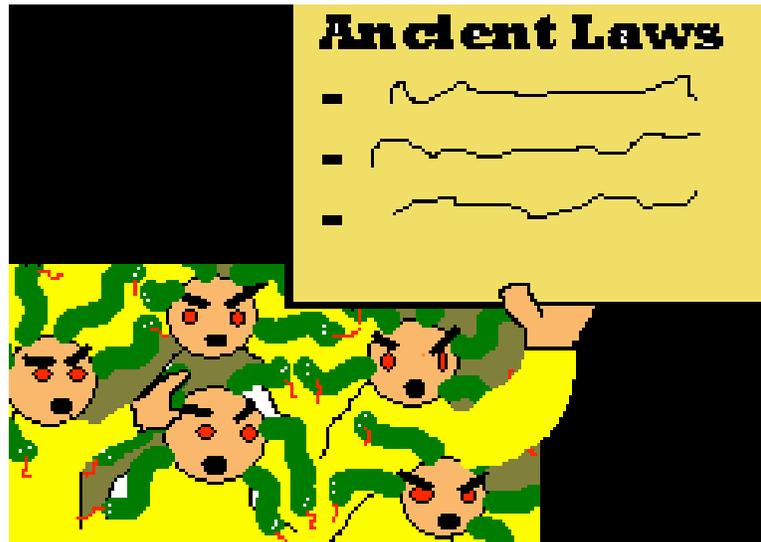


ATHENA: To judge the issues of blood-guilt, and wrath
That follows swift behind. This too gives pause,
That thou as one with all due rites performed
...But ye, call forth your witness and your proof,
Words strong for justice, fortified by oath;
And I, whoe'er are truest in my town,
Them will I choose and bring, and straitly charge,
Look on this cause, discriminating well,
And pledge your oath to utter nought of wrong.

Athena says now they must judge the case; however the Furies must bring witnesses and proof so that through just and through the twelve Athenian men, a verdict will be made.

- a) What are the blood-guilt and the wrath?
- b) Do you think the Furies will present unbiased witnesses?
- c) Can you relate the Athenian men called to judge the case to jury duty?
- d) What do you think the verdict would be if half of the jury consisted of women with children and the other half of the younger gods who favored Orestes' humility?

Part 5 Cell 7

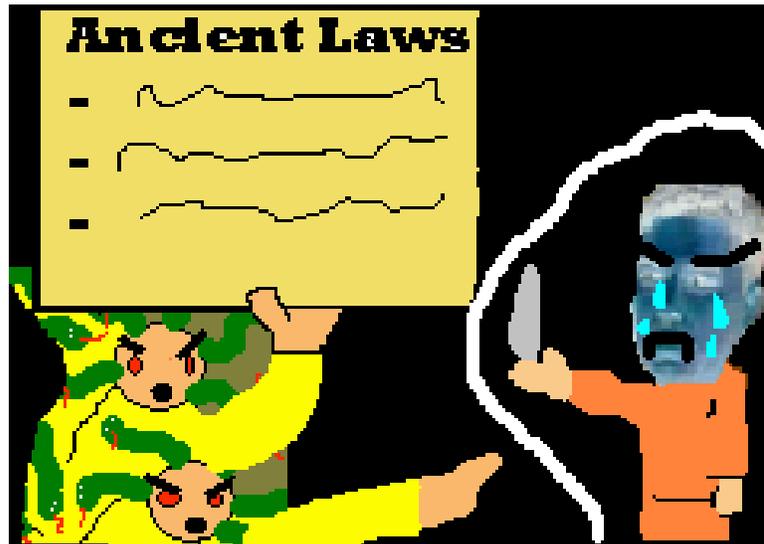


THE FURIES: Now are they all undone, the ancient laws,
If here the slayer's cause
Prevail; new wrong for ancient right shall be
If matricide go free.
Henceforth a deed like his by all shall stand,
Too ready to the hand:
Too oft shall parents in the aftertime
Rue and lament this crime,-
Taught, not in false imagining, to feel
Their children's thrusting steel:
No more the wrath, that erst on murder fell
From us, the queens of Hell,
Shall fall, no more our watching gaze impend-
Death shall smite unrestrained.

After Athena asks the Furies to consider the reasons behind the crime, they respond by stating there are laws and if such a crime be not punished all mothers & fathers would be fearful of their lives.

- a) Are the ancient laws important to the Furies?
- b) Do you think all parents would assume their children would kill them if this crime was not recognized?
- c) How can you compare and contrast Orestes' case to the Laci Peterson case?
- d) What could happen if the crime of matricide not be punished?

Part 5 Cell 8



THE FURIES: Let none henceforth cry out, when falls the blow
Of sudden-smiting woe,
Cry out in sad reiterated strain
O Justice, aid! aid, O ye thrones of Hell!
So though a father or a mother wail
New-smitten by a son, it shall no more avail,
Since, overthrown by wrong, the fane of justice fell!
... Wisdom is child of pain, and born with many a tear;
But who henceforth,
What man of mortal men, what nation upon earth,
That holdeth nought in awe nor in the light
Of inner reverence, shall worship Right
As in the older day?

The Furies emphasize, once again, the ancient laws and a crime such as this cannot be judged on one man's personal wrath.

- What do the Furies say can't be taken into consideration?
- Do you think it is right for the Furies to disregard Orestes' emotional state?
- In all murder cases, both past and present, do you think the murderer is disrespectful of the law?
- What if the Furies had said that "Anger is the child of pain" instead of "Wisdom is the child of pain"? What do you think they mean by this?

Part 5 Cell 9



THE FURIES: Praise not, O man, the life beyond control,
Nor that which bows unto a tyrant's sway.
Know that the middle way
Is dearest unto God, and they thereon who wend,
They shall achieve the end;
But they who wander or to left or right
Are sinners in his sight.
Take to thy heart this one, this soothfast word-
Of wantonness impiety is sire;
Only from calm control and sanity unstirred
Cometh true weal, the goal of every man's desire.

The Furies explain that we shouldn't praise any man who is out of control, but man's desire for sanity.

- a) What should be a man's desire?
 - A woman.
 - A nice suit from the Men's Warehouse.
 - Sanity.
- b) Do you think a man can have multiple desires and still be ethical?
- c) What political parties would relate to the Furies explanation of left, right, and middle?
- d) What do you think would have happened if Orestes would have controlled his anger?

Part 5 Cell 10



THE FURIES: For as thou dost shall Fate do in return,
And the great doom is sure.
Therefore let each adore a parent's trust,
And each with loyalty revere the guest
That in his halls doth rest.

The Furies warn that if Orestes is not judged guilty, it will affect parents' trust.

- What phrase in the quote explains that the outcome of the case would have an effect?
- What do you think a parent's opinion on Orestes' fate would be?
- Do you think modern day kids want to kill their parents?
- What do you think would be the outcome if all parents thought their children were capable of killing them?

Part 5 Cell 11



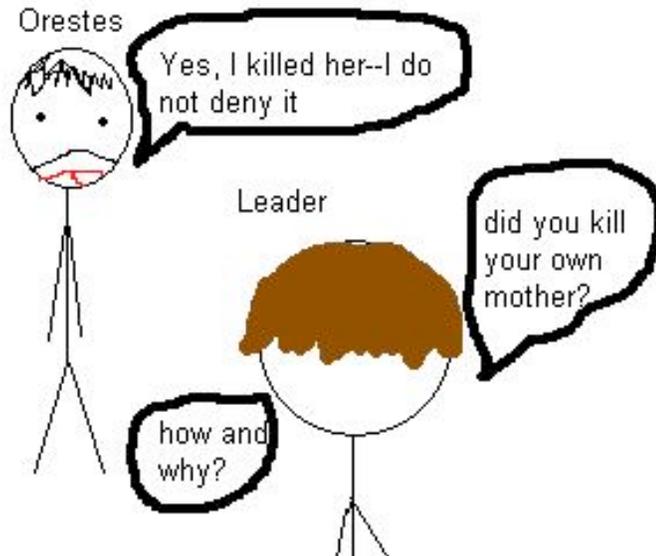
ATHENA: O herald, make proclaim, bid all men come.
Then let the shrill blast of the Tyrrhene trump,
Fulfilled with mortal breath, thro' the wide air
Peal a loud summons, bidding all men heed.
For, till my judges fill this judgment-seat,
Silence behoves, -that this whole city learn,
What for all time mine ordinance commands,
And these men, that the cause be judged aright.

Athena calls the twelve Athenian men to the room and a large crowd follows.

- a) In what way does Athena call the twelve men into the chamber?
- b) Do you think the twelve Athenian men are trustworthy?
- c) Compare Athena's court to a modern day court. Which characters fit what roles?
- d) What do you think the verdict will be and why?

part 6

cell # 1- Questioning of Orestes



Quote:

LEADER Though we be many, brief shall be our tale. (To ORESTES)

Answer thou, setting word to match with word;

And first avow-hast thou thy mother slain?

ORESTES I slew her. I deny no word hereof.

LEADER Three falls decide the wrestle-this is one.

ORESTES Thou vauntest thee-but o'er no final fall.

LEADER Yet must thou tell the manner of thy deed.

ORESTES Drawn sword in hand, I gashed her neck. 'Tis told.

LEADER But by whose word, whose craft, wert thou impelled?

ORESTES By oracles of him who here attests me.

Summary: Leader asks Orestes if, how, and why he killed Clytemnestra. He admits he did slay her (not to boast of it), with a sword which he used to gash her neck because Apollo told him to in order to avenge his father's death.

- Comprehension: What is the reason Orestes tells the leader he killed his mother?

-Vocab. Question: The word slew (from the quote "I slew her") is the past tense of the word...

- slay
- slur
- slack

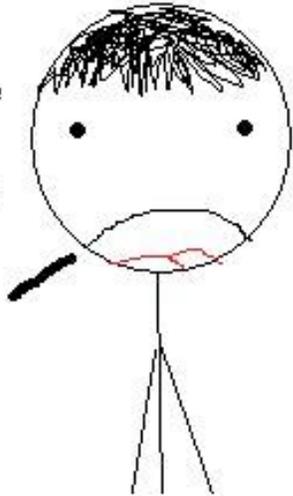
d. sleigh

-What do you think would have happened if Orestes had lied and denied he had killed his mother?

-Do you think it was wrong of Orestes to avenge his father's death by killing his own mother and thereby possibly sealing his own fate?

cell #2 Questioning of Orestes cont.

I gashed her
neck with
my sword
because she
not only
killed her
husband but
also my
father.



Quote:

LEADER If the vote grip thee, thou shalt change that word.

ORESTES Strong is my hope; my buried sire shall aid.

LEADER Go to now, trust the dead, a matricide!

ORESTES Yea, for in her combined two stains of sin.

LEADER How? speak this clearly to the judges' mind.

ORESTES Slaying her husband, she did slay my sire. "

Summary: Orestes explains she deserved her death because she committed two sins; slaying her husband thus slaying Orestes's father.

-Comprehension: According to Orestes, what were the two sins Clytemnestra committed?

-Vocab question: The word matricide (From the quote "Go to now, trust the dead, a matricide") probably means...

- a. a person who murders their father
- b. a person who murders their mother
- c. someone who is mentally ill
- d. a terrible person

-Do you think the Leader will agree with Orestes? What exactly do you think he will say?

-What is the difference between Clytemnestra's killing Agamemnon to avenge their daughter's death and Orestes' killing Clytemnestra to avenge Agamemnon's death? Is there a difference?

cell#3-Leader explains



Quote:

LEADER Therefore thou livest; death assoils her deed.

ORESTES Then while she lived why didst thou hunt her not?

LEADER She was not kin by blood to him she slew.

ORESTES And I, am I by blood my mother's kin?

LEADER O cursed with murder's guilt, how else wert thou

The burden of her womb? Dost thou forswear

Thy mother's kinship, closest bond of love?"

Summary: The leader says what Clytemnestra did was not sin because she was not blood related to Agamemnon but Orestes is because he came straight from her womb.

-Comprehension: According to the Leader why is Clytemnestra innocent and Orestes not?

-Vocab. Question: The word *assoil* (from the quote "Therefore thou livest; death assoils her deed." most closely means

a. hold it against, grudge

b. finds it funny

c. forgive, pardon

-Was it okay for Agamemnon to sacrifice their daughter even though they are blood related?

-How do you think Apollo and Athena will react to the Leader's statement?

Cell#4 Apollo steps up



Quote:

APOLLO To you, Athena's mighty council-court,
Justly for justice will I plead, even I,
The prophet-god, nor cheat you by one word.
For never spake I from my prophet-seat
One word, of man, of woman, or of state,
Save what the Father of Olympian gods
Commanded unto me. I rede you then,
Bethink you of my plea, how strong it stands,
And follow the decree of Zeus our sire,-
For oaths prevail not over Zeus' command.

LEADER Go to; thou sayest that from Zeus befell
The oracle that this Orestes bade
With vengeance quit the slaying of his sire,
And hold as nought his mother's right of kin!

APOLLO Yea, for it stands not with a common death,
That he should die, a chieftain and a king
Decked with the sceptre which high heaven confers-
Die, and by female hands, not smitten down
By a far-shooting bow, held stalwartly
By some strong Amazon. Another doom
Was his: O Pallas, hear, and ye who sit
In judgment, to discern this thing aright!-
She with a specious voice of welcome true
Hailed him, returning from the mighty mart
Where war for life gives fame, triumphant home;

Then o'er the laver, as he bathed himself,
She spread from head to foot a covering net,
And in the endless mesh of cunning robes
Enwound and trapped her lord, and smote him down.
Lo, ye have heard what doom this chieftain met,
The majesty of Greece, the fleet's high lord:
Such as I tell it, let it gall your ears,
Who stand as judges to decide this cause."

Summary: Apollo tells the jury not only he but Zeus himself agreed
Orestes had to avenge his father's death

-Comprehension: Who were the two that supported the murdering of
Clytaemnestra?

-Vocab Question: The word *chieftain* (from the quote "ye have heard
what doom this chieftain met") most likely means...

- A. A leader
- b. a liar
- c. A peasant
- d. a tree

-Do you think Zeus's involvement will persuade the jury? In what way?

-Are our leader's today influenced by their beliefs in a higher being the
way the jury may possibly be influenced by Zeus's involvement?

Cell#5



Quote:

LEADER Zeus, as thou sayest, holds a father's death
As first of crimes, -yet he of his own act
Cast into chains his father, Cronus old:
How suits that deed with that which now ye tell?
O ye who judge, I bid ye mark my words!

APOLLO O monsters loathed of all, O scorn of gods,
He that hath bound may loose: a cure there is.
Yea, many a plan that can unbind the chain.
But when the thirsty dust sucks up man's blood
Once shed in death, he shall arise no more.
No chant nor charm for this my Sire hath wrought.
All else there is, he moulds and shifts at will,
Not scant of strength nor breath, whate'er he do.

Summary: The Leader replies who is Zeus to judge when he cast into chains his own father. Apollo defends Zeus saying at least he did not kill him and the chains can always un-bind.

-Comprehension: Why does the Leader feel Zeus is in no position to have say in this particular situation?

-Vocab question: the word *scorn* (as used in the quote "O scorn of gods") most likely means...

- A. Dirty/mean look
- B. Punishment

C. love

d. feeling of strong dislike

-Do you think the Leader is right in saying Zeus is in no position to judge because of what he has done to his own father?

-Do you think what Apollo is saying will change the way the Leader looks at Zeus?

cell #6 Apollo: "mothers are not true blood relatives"



Quote:

LEADER Think yet, for what acquittal thou dost plead:

He who hath shed a mother's kindred blood,
Shall he in Argos dwell, where dwelt his sire?

How shall he stand before the city's shrines,
How share the clansmen's holy lustral bowl?

APOLLO This too I answer; mark a soothfast word

Not the true parent is the woman's womb
That bears the child; she doth but nurse the seed
New-sown: the male is parent; she for him,
As stranger for a stranger, hoards the germ
Of life, unless the god its promise blight.

And proof hereof before you will I set.

Birth may from fathers, without mothers, be:

See at your side a witness of the same,

Athena, daughter of Olympian Zeus,

Never within the darkness of the womb

Fostered nor fashioned, but a bud more bright
Than any goddess in her breast might bear.

And I, O Pallas, howsoe'er I may,

Henceforth will glorify thy town, thy clan,

And for this end have sent my suppliant here

Unto thy shrine; that he from this time forth
Be loyal unto thee for evermore,
O goddess-queen, and thou unto thy side
Mayst win and hold him faithful, and his line,
And that for aye this pledge and troth remain
To children's children of Athena's seed.

Summary:

Apollo says that mothers are not true blood relatives of their children but merely carry the seed the man plants. He then uses Athena as an example because she was born out of Zeus's head with no woman's assistance. Thus concluding Clytemnestra is not a blood relative of Orestes.

-Comprehension: Why does Apollo use Athena to make his point?

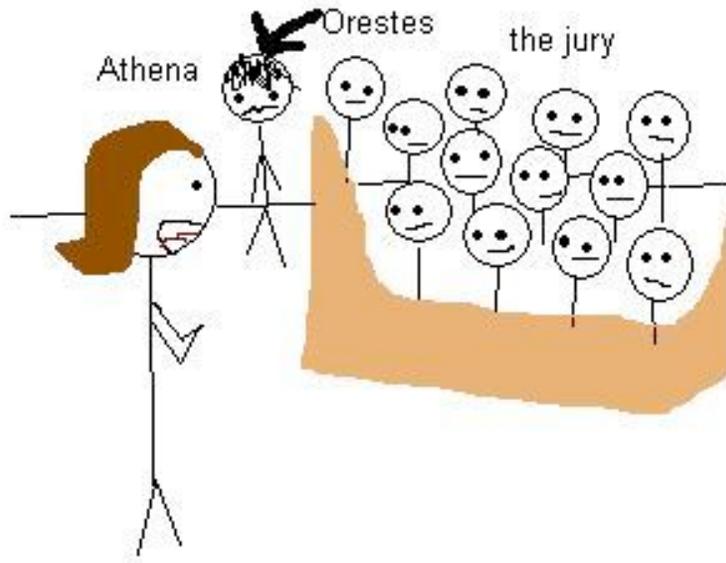
-vocab question: To glorify most likely means...

- A. To lose something
- B. To boast
- C. to praise or idealize
- d. to scold

-Do you think Apollo's using Athena as an example will have any affect on the jury's decision?

-Do you think Apollo is right in saying mothers are not blood related to their children? Would any lawyer today attempt to use such a defense?

Cell#7- Athena's speech



Quote:

ATHENA O men of Athens, ye who first do judge
The law of bloodshed, hear me now ordain.
Here to all time for Aegeus' Attic host
Shall stand this council-court of judges sworn,
Here the tribunal, set on Ares' Hill
Where camped of old the tented Amazons,
What time in hate of Theseus they assailed
Athens, and set against her citadel A counterwork of new sky-pointing
towers,
And there to Ares held their sacrifice,
Where now the rock hath name, even Ares' Hill.
And hence shall Reverence and her kinsman Fear
Pass to each free man's heart, by day and night
Enjoining, Thou shalt do no unjust thing,
So long as law stands as it stood of old
Unmarred by civic change. Look you, the spring
Is pure; but foul it once with influx vile
And muddy clay, and none can drink thereof.
Therefore, O citizens, I bid ye bow
In awe to this command, Let no man live,
Uncurbed by law nor curbed by tyranny;
Nor banish ye the monarchy of Awe
Beyond the walls; untouched by fear divine,
No man doth justice in the world of men.

Therefore in purity and holy dread
Stand and revere; so shall ye have and hold
A saving bulwark of the state and land,
Such as no man hath ever elsewhere known,
Nor in far Scythia, nor in Pelops' realm.
Thus I ordain it now, a council-court
Pure and unsullied by the lust of gain,
Sacred and swift to vengeance, wakeful ever
To champion men who sleep, the country's guard.
Thus have I spoken, thus to mine own clan
Commended it for ever. Ye who judge,
Arise, take each his vote, mete out the right,
Your oath revering. Lo, my word is said. (The twelve judges come
forward, one by one, to the urns of decision; the first votes; as
each of the others follows, the LEADER and APOLLO speak alternately.)

Summary: Athena pleads with the jury to be extremely careful and reasonable in their decision.

-Comprehension: What do you think Athena means when she says
"Look you, the spring
Is pure; but foul it once with influx vile
And muddy clay, and none can drink thereof"?

-Vocab. Question: The word *ordain* (as used in the quote "ye who first
do judge

The law of bloodshed, hear me now ordain.") most likely means...

- A. Complain sneakily
- B. Express righteously
- C. cry tearfully
- d. appoint wrongly

-Do you think the Jury will really take Athena's speech into
consideration?

-Do you believe Athena is right in warning the judges so strongly?

Cell #1



Quote

APOLLO-"I too would warn you, fear mine oracles- From Zeus they are,-nor make them void of fruit"

LEADER- "Presumptuous is thy claim, blood-guilt to judge, And false henceforth thine oracles shall be"

Summary

Apollo is telling the judge to watch out for his powers, as they were given to him by Zeus and have no limit, but the leader believes his powers haven't helped him

Comprehension

What is Apollo trying to show off to the court?

Vocab

In the quote, "*Presumptuous* is thy claim, blood-guilt to judge, And false henceforth thine oracles shall be", what does *Presumptuous* mean?

- A) excessively forward or self-righteous
- B) obsessively ornate or complicated
- C) unbelievably strong or mutated
- D) undeniably true or phony

Ethical

What does Apollo truly think of himself?

Predictive

Will his statement affect anyone's decision about him?

Cell #2



Quote

ORESTES- O bright Apollo, what shall be the end?

LEADER- Oh Night, dark another mine, dost mark these things?

ORESTES- Now shall my doom be life, or strangling cords.

LEADER- And mine, lost honour or a widersway

APOLLO O stranger judges, sum aright the count Of votes cast forth,
and, parting them, take heed Ye err not in decision. The default Of one
vote only bringeth ruin deep, One, cast aright. doth stablsh house and
home.

ATHENA Behold, this man is free from guilt of blood, For half the votes
condemn him, half set free!

Summary

Orestes is asking about his fate, and no one is giving a straight answer until Athena counts the votes, finds them evenly split, and decides herself that Orestes is to be freed.

Comprehension

What is Orestes asking about?

Vocab

In the quote, "Behold, this man is free from guilt of blood, For half the votes *condemn* him, half set free!", what does condemn mean?

- A) judge unfavorably, find guilty
- B) deem mentally unfit, be found out to be an instructor
- C) lock in a cage, punish by sending to school
- D) seize treats away from a child, give bribes to politicians

Predictive

What will Orestes fate most likely turn out?

Ethical

Is there any way Apollo can help change the decision of the jury?

Cell #3



Quote

CHORUS (chanting) Woe on you, younger gods! the ancient right Ye have o'erridden, rent it from my hands. I am dishonoured of you, thrust to scorn! But heavily my wrath Shall on this land fling forth the drops that blast and burn, Venom of vengeance, that shall work such scathe As I have suffered; where that dew shall fall, Shall leafless blight arise, Wasting Earth's offspring,-Justice, hear my call!- And thorough all the land in deadly wise Shall scatter venom, to exude again In pestilence on men. What cry avails me now, what deed of blood, Unto this land what dark despite? Alack, alack, forlorn Are we, a bitter injury have borne! Alack, O sisters, O dishonoured brood Of mother Night!

Summary

The Furies are scolding the "younger gods" for betraying the ancient gods and saying how ashamed they are of them. They also talk about how their vengeance shall destroy the land and leave it uninhabitable with their power.

Comprehension

What did the furies promise to bring to the land?

Vocab

In the quote, "Wasting Earth's *offspring*,-Justice, hear my call!" what does offspring mean?

- A) Bad things happening again
- B) A broken trampoline, dangerous game
- C) A result of confusing statistics
- D) Little children who drain bank accounts

Ethical

Do the furies really mean to destroy all life?

Predictive

Who is truly stronger in the end, Apollo or The Furies?

Cell #4



Quote

ATHENA- Dishonoured are ye not; turn not, I pray, As goddesses your swelling wrath on men, Nor make the friendly earth despiteful to them. I too have Zeus for champion-'tis enough- I only of all goddesses do know To ope the chamber where his thunderbolts Lie stored and sealed; but here is no such need. Nay, be appeased, nor cast upon the ground The malice of thy tongue, to blast the world; Calm thou thy bitter wrath's black inward surge, For high shall be thine honour, set beside me For ever in this land, whose fertile lap Shall pour its teeming firstfruits unto you, Gifts for fair childbirth and for wedlock's crown: Thus honoured, praise my spoken pledge for aye.

Summary

Athena is trying to calm the furies down, as she knows the fate of Orestes and the war of words will not change that

Comprehension

Who is Athena trying to calm, Apollo or the furies?

Vocab

In the quote, "Nay, be appeased, nor cast upon the ground The *malice* of thy tongue", what does malice mean?

- A) Desire to harm
- B) Lust for life
- C) Desperate for food
- D) Words not spoken

Predictive

Will Athena's words have effect on the furies or Apollo?

Could the Furies be bribed to forget this decision?

Ethical

Do the Athena's words prove that she has the power to change people's views and decisions?

Cell #5



Quote

ATHENA Older art thou than I, and I will bear With this thy fury. Know, although thou be More wise in ancient wisdom, yet have From Zeus no scanted measure of the same, Wherefore take heed unto this prophecy- If to another land of alien men Ye go, too late shall ye feel longing dreepe For mine.

Summary

Athena is telling the furies although they may have wisdom, they have no power compared to Athena's. But in a way, she somewhat applauds them for their wisdom but at the same time chastises them

Comprehension

Who is Athena "praising"?

Vocab

In the quote, "Wherefore take heed unto this *prophecy*", what does prophecy mean?

- A) Purple ocean
- B) House
- C) A money making letter
- D) A prediction

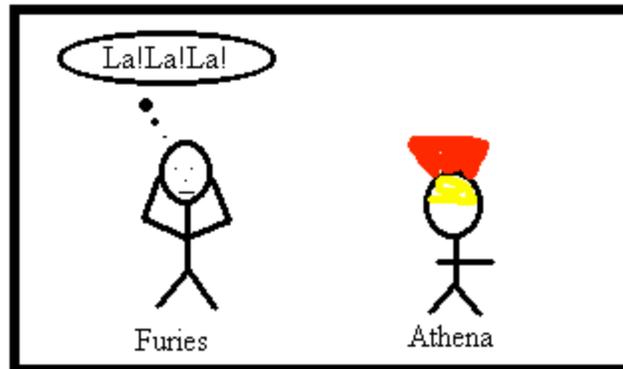
Ethical

Why does Athena applaud the furies' wisdom?

Predictive

Do the furies realize what Athena is trying to do?

Part #8 Cell 1



Quote: CHORUS (chanting) I, I dishonoured in this earth to dwell,-
Ancient of days and wisdom! I breathe forth
Poison and breath of frenzied ire. O Earth,
Woe, woe for thee, for me!
From side to side what pains be these that thrill?
Hearken, O mother Night, my wrath, mine agony!
Whom from mine ancient rights the gods have thrust
And brought me to the dust-
Woe, woe is me!-with craft invincible.

ATHENA I will not weary of soft words to thee,
That never mayst thou say, Behold me spurned,
An elder by a younger deity,
And from this land rejected and forlorn,
Unhonoured by the men who dwell therein.
But, if Persuasion's grace be sacred to thee,
Soft in the soothing accents of my tongue,
Tarry, I Dray thee, yet, if go thou wilt.
Not rightfully wilt thou on this my town
Sway down the scale that beareth wrath and teen
Or wasting plague uport this folk. 'Tis thine,
If so thou wilt, inheritress to be
Of this my land, its utmost grace to win.

Summary: Furies is ignoring what Athena says and repeating the same thing he had said over and over.

Reading Comprehension: Is Furies paying attention to anything that Athena is saying?

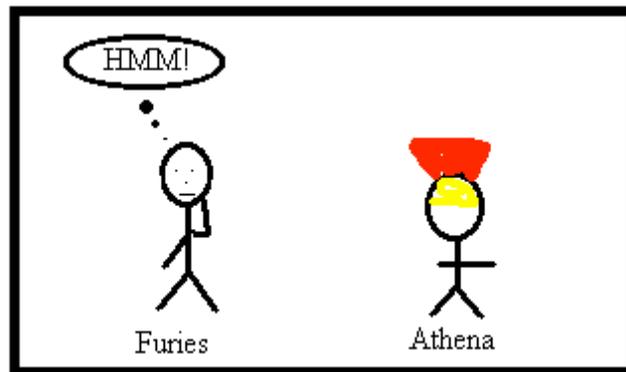
Vocabulary: In the quote, "**Hearken**, O mother Night, my wrath, mine agony!" What does Hearken mean?

- A.) To listen attentively
- B.) A name
- C.) A thing
- D.) A place

Predictive Question: If Furies hadn't threatened to unleash a plague on Athens, would Athena be trying to share her power with Furies and try to calm him down?

Discussion Question: Would you be willing to share your power if you were in Athena's position?

Part #8 Cell 2



Quote: LEADER OF THE CHORUS O queen, what refuge dost thou promise me?

ATHENA Refuge untouched by bale: take thou my boon.

LEADER What, if I take it, shall mine honour be?

ATHENA No house shall prosper without grace of thine.

LEADER Canst thou achieve and grant such power to me?

ATHENA Yea, for my hand shall bless thy worshippers.

LEADER And wilt thou pledge me this for time eterne?

ATHENA Yea: none can bid me pledge beyond my power.

LEADER Lo, I desist from wrath, appeased by thee.

ATHENA Then in the land's heart shalt thou win thee friends.

Summary: In this quote, the Furies is getting interested in what Athena is proposing to give to them of he decides not to destroy Athens.

Reading Comprehension:

What is Athena proposing to give to the Furies if decide not to destroy Athens?

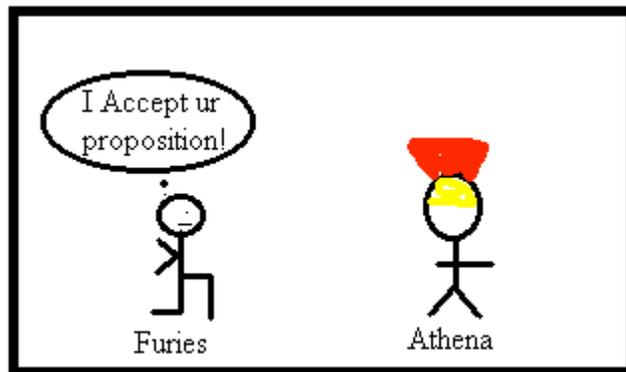
Vocabulary: In the quote, "Refuge untouched by *bale* take thou my boon," what most likely does bale mean?

- A.) Same meaning as bail out
- B.) Some kind of sticky substance
- C.) An animal that attacks lazy people
- D.) Evil or trouble

Ethical Question: Is Athena doing the right thing by granting the Furies power?

Discussion: Why do you think that the Furies is now getting interested on the idea of sharing Athena's power?

Part #8 Cell 3



Quote: CHORUS (chanting) Lo, I accept it; at her very side
Doth Pallas bid me dwell:
I will not wrong the city of her pride,
Which even Almighty Zeus and Ares hold
Heaven's earthly citadel,
Loved home of Grecian gods, the young, the old,
The sanctuary divine,
The shield of every shrine!
For Athens I say forth a gracious prophecy, -
The glory of the sunlight and the skies
Shall bid from earth arise
Warm wavelets of new life and glad prosperity.

Summary: In this part, the chorus of Furies tells Athena that they accept to be at Athena's side and do right and help make Athens better.

Reading Comprehension: What is the chorus of Furies decision about Athena's proposition?

Vocabulary: In the quote, "Heaven's earthly *citadel*," what does citadel most likely mean?

- A.) Heaven's nectar
- B.) Some kind of power
- C.) A fortress in a commanding position
- D.) Some place in the middle of heaven and Earth

Predictive Question: What do you think that Athena would do if the Furies would had refused her proposition?

Discussion Question: Why do you think that Furies is now accepting Athena's proposition?

Part #8 Cell 4



Quote: ATHENA (chanting) And I too, I with joy am fain,
Hearing your voice this gift ordain
Unto my land. High thanks be thine,
Persuasion, who with eyes divine
Into my tongue didst look thy strength,
To bend and to appease at length
Those who would not be comforted.
That good may stand in evil's stead,
And lasting bliss for bale.

Summary: They both are saying that they do their best to bring peace and that their will only be good.

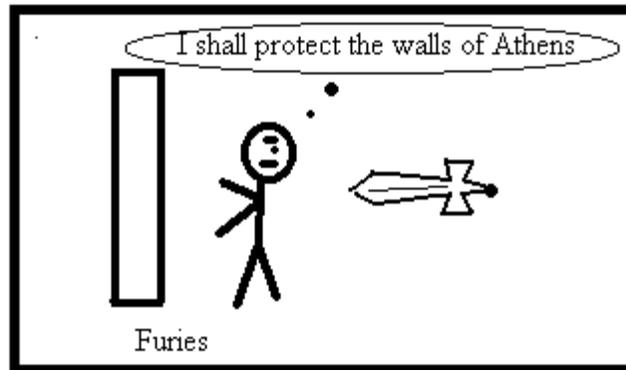
Reading Comprehension: What is Athena trying to say?

Vocabulary: In the quote, "And lasting **bliss** for bale." What does bliss most likely means?

- A.) Evil from oil
- B.) Ecstasy of existence
- C.) Grouchy can
- D.) Peaceful fire

Discussion: Why do you think that they are chanting and saying all this promises that might not even happen?

Part #8 Cell 5



Quote: CHORUS (chanting) And nevermore these walls within
Shall echo fierce sedition's din,
Unslaked with blood and crime;
The thirsty dust shall nevermore
Suck up the darkly streaming gore
Of civic broils, shed out in wrath
And vengeance, crying death for death!
But man with man and state with state
Shall vow The pledge of common hate
And common friendship, that for man
Hath oft made blessing, out of ban,
Be ours unto all time.

ATHENA (chanting) Skill they, or not, the path to find

Of favouring speech and presage kind?
Yea, even from these, who, grim and stern,
Glared anger upon you of old,
O citizens, ye now shall earn
A recompense right manifold.
Deck them aright, extol them high,
Be loyal to their loyalty,
And ye shall make your town and land
Sure, propped on justice' saving hand,
And Fame's eternity.

Summary: In this passage, Furies says that he will protect the walls of Athens and how his view in man has changed.

Reading Comprehension: What does the Furies say?

Vocabulary: In the quote, "Deck them aright, **extol** them high," what does the word extol most likely mean?

- A.) Say something out loud
- B.) Raise something for ridicule
- C.) To throw someone out a window
- D.) To praise highly

Discussion: Why do you think they are changing because of this grant of power?

Part #8 Cell 6



Quote: ATHENA (chanting) All hail unto each honoured guest!
Whom to the chambers of your rest
'Tis mine to lead, and to provide
The hallowed torch, the guard and guide.
Pass down, the while these altars glow
With sacred fire, to earth below
And your appointed shrine.
There dwelling, from the land restrain
The force of fate, the breath of bane,
But waft on us the gift and gain
Of Victory divine!
And ye, the men of Cranaos' seed,
I bid you now with reverence lead
These alien Powers that thus are made
Athenian evermore. To you
Fair be their will henceforth, to do
Whate'er may bless and aid!

Summary: Athena says to Athenians give respect to the guests and that she will lead them to their shrine.

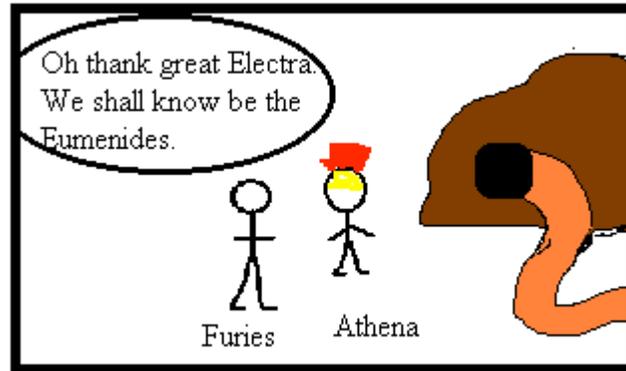
Reading Comprehension: Where is Athena going to take them?

Vocabulary: In the quote, "But *waft* on us the gift and gain Of Victory divine!" What does waft most likely mean?

- A.) To go soft or smoothly
- B.) To go rough or hard
- C.) To stomp
- D.) Delight

Discussion: Why do you think that Athena will let them live in a shrine or underground, instead of living where everybody else lived?

Part #8 Cell 7



Quote: CHORUS (chanting) Hail to you all! hail yet again,
All who love Athens, gods and men,
Adoring her as Pallas' home!
And while ye reverence what ye grant-
My sacred shrine and hidden haunt-
Blameless and blissful be your doom!

ATHENA Once more I praise the promise of your vows,
And now I bid the golden torches' glow
Pass down before you to the hidden depth
Of earth, by mine own sacred servants borne,
My loyal guards of statue and of shrine.
Come forth, O flower of Attic land,
O glorious band of children and of wives,
And ye, O train of matrons crowned with eld!
Deck you with festal robes of scarlet dye
In honour of this day: O gleaming torch,
Lead onward, that these gracious powers of earth
Henceforth be seen to bless the life of men. (ATHENA leads the
procession
downwards into the Cave of the FURIES, now Eumenides, under the
Areopagus:
as they go, the escort of women and children chant aloud)

Summary: The furies are very grateful for what Athena has granted them. They change their names to Eumenides which means the Benevolent Ones. They were then led by Athena into their cave.

Reading Comprehension: What do the Furies change their name to and what does it mean?

Vocabulary: In the quote, "And ye, O train of *matrons* crowned with
eld!" What does matrons most likely mean?

A.) A married man of dignity, mature age, and establishes social
position

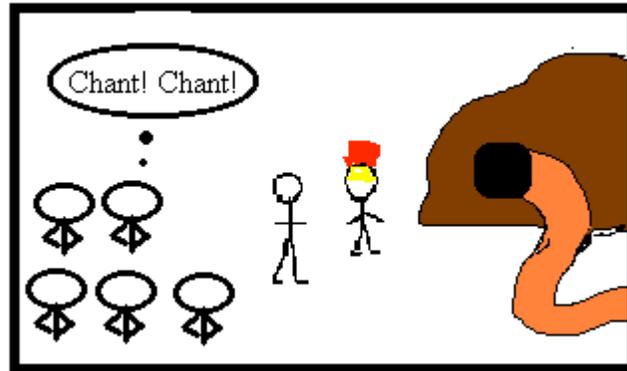
B.) A married woman or a widow, especially a mother of dignity,
mature age, and established social position.

C.) People

D.) Some kind of substance

Discussion: Would you be giving all the stuff Athena has given the
Eumenides and celebrate their coming to the city just for them not to
destroy the city?

Part #8 Cell 8



Quote: CHANT With loyalty we lead you; proudly go,
Night's childless children, to your home below!
O citizens, awhile from words forbear!
To darkness' deep primeval lair,
Far in Earth's bosom, downward fare,
Adored with prayer and sacrifice.
O citizens, forbear your cries!
Pass hitherward, ye powers of Dread,
With all your former wrath allayed,
Into the heart of this loved land;
With joy unto your temple wend,
The while upon your steps attend
The flames that feed upon the brand-
Now, now ring out your chant, your joy's acclaim!
Behind them, as they downward fare,
Let holy hands libations bear,
And torches' sacred flame.
All-seeing Zeus and Fate come down
To battle fair for Pallas' town!
Ring out your chant, ring out your joy's acclaim!

Summary: The people sing a chant while they lead the Eumenides into their lair.

Reading Comprehension: Why are they chanting?

Vocabulary: In the quote, "With joy unto your temple *wend*," what does the word wend most likely mean?

A.) Go

- B.) Peacefully
- C.) Joyfully
- D.) Sadly

Discussion: Would you be chanting for them and celebrating by knowing that the only reason they got granted the power was by their bitterness?