Quotations from *Antigone*

- “Think about how much more terrible than these our own death would be if we should go against Creon and do what he has forbidden! We are only women; we cannot fight with men.”

- “Creon is not strong enough to stand in my way.”

- “Leave me my foolish plan: I am not afraid of the danger; if it means death, it will not be the worst of deaths--death without honor.”

- “Gentlemen: I have the honor to inform you that our ship of state, which recent storms have threatened to destroy, has come safely to harbor at last, guided by the merciful wisdom of heaven. I have summoned you here this morning because I know that I can depend upon you.”

- “Scheming against me in alleys. These are the men, and they have bribed my own guard to do this thing. Money! There’s nothing in the world so demoralizing as money.”

- “I’d like nothing better than bringing him the man! But bring him or not, you have seen the last of me here. At any rate, I am safe!”

- “I have seen a mother bird come back to a stripped nest, heard her crying bitterly a broken note or two for the young ones stolen, just so, when this girl found the bare corpse, and all her love’s work wasted, she wept, and cried on heaven to damn the hands that had done this thing.”

- “She has much to learn. The inflexible heart breaks first, the toughest iron cracks first, and the wildest horses break their necks at the pull of the smallest cart. Pride? In a slave? This girl is guilty of a double insolence, breaking the given laws and boasting of it.”

- “I am only mortal. And if I must die now, before it is my time to die, surely this is no hardship: can anyone living, as I live, with evil all about me think Death less than a friend?”

- “Yes. Save yourself. I shall not envy you. There are those who will praise you; I shall have honor, too.”

- “There are places enough for him to push his plow. I want no wicked women for my sons!”

- “Whoever is chosen to govern should be obeyed--must be obeyed, in all things, great and small, just and unjust!”

- “I cannot say--I hope that I shall never want to say!--that you have reasoned badly. Yet there are other men who can reason, too; and their opinions might be helpful. You are not in a position to know everything that people say or do, or what they feel: your temper terrifies--everyone will tell you only what you like to hear.”

- “It is not reason never to yield to reason! In flood time you can see how some trees bend, and because they bend, even their twigs are safe, while the stubborn trees are torn up, roots and all. And the same thing happens in sailing: Make your sheet fast, never slacken—and over you go, Head over heels and under: and there’s your voyage.”

- “But she was born of heaven, and you are woman, woman-born. If her death is yours, a mortal woman’s, is this not for you glory in our world and in the world beyond?”

- “I began the rites of burnt offering at the altar, but Hephaestus failed me: instead of bright flame, there was only the sputtering slime of fat thigh-flesh melting: the entrails dissolved in grey smoke; the bare bone burst from the welter. And no blaze!”

- “The time is not far off when you shall pay back corpse for corpse, flesh of your own flesh.”

- “The queen is dead.”