

Benjamin Verge

Playscript Analysis (Medea)

Thoughts on the play: I don't like the play because I don't believe her revenge was justified for what he did. I get how she hurt she was but killing your own kids to get back at your child's father is unforgivable. As a father I understand the hurt she gave him. She completed her mission even if it caused herself pain.

1. Where are they?

- a. They were Colochis (Homeland to Medea) and Iolcos (Homeland of Jason), then moved to Corinth (Creon was the Ruler). Medea was banished however once Jason wed his 2nd wife.
- b. The characters never got into a description of what their surroundings looked like.
- c. Corinth was ruled by Creon and Jason wanted to ascend into political power which ultimately led to his downfall and reactions from Medea.

2. When are they?

- a. They were somewhere around B.C 431.
- b. They made no specific notes about when they are.
- c. Yes. It was Ancient Greece and the law of the land was ruled by monarchy.

3. Who are they?

Characters

- a. **Medea-** She is a former princess and the daughter of the King of Colochis. She was the wife and eventual mistress/ex-wife and babies' mother to Jason, Brother of Absyrtus. Some will say she was some sort of enchantress. She killed her brother then fled with Jason to help him secure the Golden Fleece even killing her own guard, the serpent, to do so. Medea even somehow convinced others to kill such as, Pelias into killing her father who was a rival king. Medea felt that the pain she would cause him would outweigh her own suffering. She sought ought revenge by any means necessary and was the cause of many bad things in the play.
- b. **Jason-** Chief of the Argonauts, nephew to the King of Iolcos, He treated Medea terribly even though she was crazy about him, he couldn't legally marry her because she was a barbarian. He ended up leaving Medea to marry his 2nd wife, Glause daughter of Creon, to help his status.
- c. **Creon-**Ruler of Corinth had banished Medea from his city which only amped Medea up to killing him too.
- d. **Aegeus-**Ruler of Athens. He couldn't have kids because he lacked sterility. Medea offered a cure if he provided sanctuary.
- e. **Nurse-** Nurse of Medea's children and helps around the house. She also is a listening ear for Medea

- f. **Children-** They were the two children of Jason and Medea. Medea was so heart broken over what Jason was doing that she killed them and got away with it just to cut all ties with him. They were basically her pawn to kill the new wife and Creon even though they were innocent bystanders.
- g. **Attendant-** Attendant for the children.
- h. **Messenger-** Gives the horrific details of the deaths of Creon, Ruler of Corinth
- i. **Chorus-** Filled with Corinthian Women and were reporters of action throughout the tragedy
- j. **Tutor-** Tutor for the children of Jason and Medea

They were run by a monarchy government. Religion in this play had no part of the story line. The attitude towards sex is that men are never wrong, and women should never speak out of turn or have power. The ideal of family was destroyed by Jason when he left Medea and by Medea killed her own brother when she convinced Princess Pelias to kill her own father. There was no code of ethics displayed throughout this tragedy.

4. What happened before?

I think that Jason and Medea met each other and fell in love knowing that their marriage would not be liked amongst their own countrymen. They ran away and hid to find sanctuary in a place where they believed they could live in peace as a family with their two boys.

5. What is the function of each character in the play?

- a. Medea is the protagonist because she plotted and went about killing people in her family, his 2nd wife, and even her kids just to get revenge on Jason.
- b. Jason is the antagonist in the play because his mistreatment of Medea led her to seek revenge and hurt him deeper than she ever was.
- c. * Functions of secondary characters are written in number two. *

6. What kinds of dialogue do the characters speak?

- a. Their dialogue seems natural and realistic for the time period. They were fluent and easy to understand. They were literate for the most part, but the story just was hard for me to read all the way through in one sitting. I did not get a poetic dialogue with this play.

7. What happens in the play?

- a. Jason and Medea were wedded in controversy. They were two different kingdoms who would not permit this action. They abandoned their own countries to settle in Corinth with their two sons. Jason left her to wed the daughter of the King Creon and Medea sought out revenge against them. She killed and conspired to kill people who had something to do with her downfall. She took down everyone she set out to take down then finally killed her children. When Jason seen the

aftermath, they talked for a few moments then she flew off in her chariot driven by dragons.

8. What is the play's theme?

- a. To show how hypocritical men are when they justify brutality in the name of military, political, and/or social status or necessity. Also, that revenge is often more dangerous than the act that caused the person to seek it and often exclude the ideology of justice served.