

GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLE · GRADE 8 · BULGARIAN LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

Antigone: A Clash of Two Laws

A modern dilemma opens Sophocles' ancient tragedy

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About the Lesson

Teacher, school, subject, grade and duration



Learning Objectives

What students should be able to do afterward



Lesson Flow

Five phases - from a modern dilemma to an ancient trial



AI in Action

Four AI tools and the real products used in class



Results & Reflection

What the lesson showed and why it was selected

About the Lesson



TEACHER

Daniela Zdravkova



SCHOOL

Plovdiv Language High School, Bulgaria



SUBJECT & TOPIC

Bulgarian Language and Literature —
“Antigone” by Sophocles



GRADE

8th grade (14–15 years old)



DURATION

45 minutes



CURRICULUM LINK

Bulgarian State Educational Standards

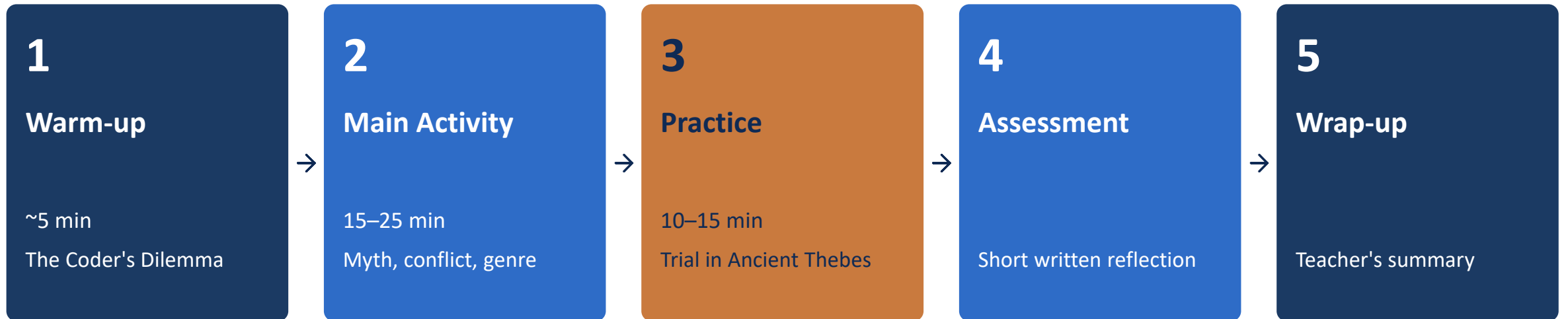


What Students Achieve

- 1** Explains the plot's development through the tragic conflict, and knows the meaning of “tragic hero.”
- 2** Explains the characters' motivations through the plot and conflict, and evaluates the ending in relation to catharsis.
- 3** Interprets “Antigone” through its genre and cultural-historical context, comparing its values and conflicts with personal experience.

SECTION 3 • LESSON STRUCTURE

Lesson Flow - Five Phases



Four different AI tools support this single 45-minute lesson - each with a distinct, well-defined role.



FOUR AI TOOLS · ONE 45-MINUTE LESSON

From an ethical dilemma to an ancient trial

What follows: how each of the five phases actually unfolded in Daniela Zdravkova's classroom.

The Coder's Dilemma

Tool: ChatGPT + Gemini



A modern moral case, told before a single line of Sophocles is read: *a student's older brother - a brilliant coder - hacks a corrupt foreign bank to pay for their mother's life-saving treatment. The police investigate; the student finds the evidence at home. Report the evidence, or protect their brother?*



A quick class vote, then the bridge to Sophocles

Students vote by show of hands - state law, or personal loyalty - and give their reasons. The teacher then makes the turn: "This is exactly the trap ancient Greek tragedy sets. Over 2,400 years ago, Sophocles pitted two people against each other, each defending an absolute truth" - Creon's law of the state, and Antigone's unwritten law of the heart.



An Ethical Case Study, Written with AI

Tool: ChatGPT / Gemini

Purpose of using AI: generating a short, gripping ethical dilemma that primes students for the central conflict of “Antigone” before they read a single line of it.

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Give me an idea for an engaging 5-minute ethical case study for 8th grade, to introduce students to the clash between state law and personal morality before studying “Antigone.”

The real prompt used by the teacher

Myth, Conflict and Genre



Mythological and Cultural Context (5 min)

A brief recap of the Theban cycle - the fate of Oedipus's line and the fratricidal war between Eteocles and Polynices.



Conceptual Analysis of the Conflict (10 min)

Antigone vs. Creon: both transgress a boundary - one human law, one divine. The Chorus voices moderation and reason.



Tracing the Genre Structure (5 min)

The turning point (peripeteia) - Tiresias's warning - and the catastrophe that follows: the deaths of Antigone, Haemon, Eurydice.

A Clash of Two Laws, Visualized with AI

Tool: NotebookLM

The teacher used NotebookLM to turn the Antigone-vs-Creon conflict into a single infographic students could read at a glance - each side's values, loyalties and reasoning laid out in parallel.



The Interactive Mind Map of the Value Conflict



AI IN ACTION · PRODUCT FROM THE LESSON

An AI-Narrated Video Overview

Tool: NotebookLM

Beyond the two infographics, the teacher generated an AI-narrated video overview with NotebookLM - “The State vs. Antigone” - tracing the conflict from ancient Thebes to its echoes across history.



Frames from the AI-narrated NotebookLM video, “The State vs. Antigone”

A Trial in Ancient Thebes

Tool: MagicSchool

Group 1 - Antigone's Lawyers

Defend her right to bury her brother, invoking the eternal, unwritten human laws.

Group 2 - Prosecutors of Creon's Order

Argue why anarchy and lawlessness would be ruinous for the polis.

Group 3 - Arbiters (the Chorus)

Listen to both sides and formulate a balanced, reasoned decision.

Roles are assigned to fit each student's inclination - Group 1 for emotional/value-based interpretation, Group 2 for logical and legal reasoning, Group 3 for advanced critical thinkers.



One Question, Three Sentences

Method: a short written answer (up to 3 sentences) to: “Who, in your opinion, pays the heavier price for their stubbornness in the tragedy, and why?”

AI support: an AI tool quickly generated a rubric for the written reflection - accuracy with the concepts, strength of argumentation, language culture.

Evidence of learning: students show they understand the tragic conflict without taking a one-sided position - recognizing it arises from two unyielding, partly-right points of view.



What Remains After the Lesson



Generated with AI

- Ethical case study - ChatGPT / Gemini
- “Two Laws” infographic - NotebookLM
- Value-conflict mind map - NotebookLM
- Narrated video overview - NotebookLM
- Group-work guiding questions - MagicSchool



Traditional materials

- Textbook
- Board
- Notebooks
- Multimedia projector and screen

No Easy Answer

The teacher's summary: Sophocles gives no easy answer as to who is right. He shows that when human law forgets humanity, and personal morality refuses to seek dialogue, catastrophe follows - closing with the Chorus's final words on prudence as the greatest good.

Homework: an essay or argumentative text on “Antigone's truth or Creon's truth - my personal choice.”



TEACHER REFLECTION

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Students participated actively.

A modern ethical dilemma, a classical tragedy, and a courtroom-style debate - across one 45-minute lesson, four AI tools (ChatGPT, Gemini, NotebookLM and MagicSchool) helped turn a 2,400-year-old text into a live argument students had a stake in.

— Daniela Zdravkova



Why We Chose This Lesson



A Deep Discussion-and-Role-Play Lesson

Not a surface-level activity - a sustained debate structure with real AI prompts (Gemini) shown, and differentiation built with MagicSchool.



AI Applied to Classic Literature

One of the clearest examples in the selection of AI supporting the analysis of a canonical literary text, not just modern or STEM content.



A Modern Bridge into an Ancient Text

The AI-written dilemma and NotebookLM visuals make a 2,400-year-old tragedy feel immediate and personally relevant to 8th graders.

Thank you for your attention!

Lesson: Antigone: A Clash of Two Laws · Daniela Zdravkova, Plovdiv Language High School, Bulgaria