Agamemnon- Double Entry Journal Guide- Counts as a Quiz!

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Why does the Watchman speak to us first -- what expectations and interests might his words arouse, as if to put us "on the lookout" for certain themes? |  |
| Before the welcoming scene when Agamemnon returns, the Chorus members speak or sing at some length. What function does their extended presence serve in the play? What expectations does it raise? How does it advance the plot? Explain prior events?  |  |
| Would you say that the Chorus' perspective in Agamemnon is consistent, or otherwise? What view/s, for instance, does it advance concerning the status of women? of Agamemnon's rule and participation in the Trojan War? of the present situation at home? |  |
| What tensions become manifest when the Chorus and Clytemnestra interact? Do they respect her? Fear her? Who are the Agamemnon Chorus, anyway, and how does their presence make Aeschylus' play flow differently than, say, a Shakespearian tragedy? |  |
| In what manner does Clytemnestra welcome Agamemnon upon his arrival? Why does she make the gestures she does, and use the tone she does? How is the tapestry scene important to any understanding of the play's subsequent events? |  |
| What perspective on the Trojan War does the Herald offer? How would you connect his comments to the play's major themes? |  |
| Agamemnon is murdered offstage at line 1371. How would you characterize Clytemnestra's speech when she first recounts her deed from lines 1391-1604? How does she further defend her actions to the Chorus, and what do her description and self-defense reveal about her status as a tragic hero? |  |
| Following the murder of Agamemnon, what seems to be the specific cause of the Chorus' anger from 1432 onwards? How do they reproach Clytemnestra from 1432-1604? |  |
| From 1072-1354, the prophetess Cassandra exchanges words with the Chorus. How does Cassandra explain the events about to unfold in the palace? To what extent does the Chorus take the measure of the prophecies she utters? |  |
| Further questions on Cassandra: What is her relationship to Apollo, and what special sorrow does she bear as a prophetess? How might you compare/contrast her plight to that of Clytemnestra? What attitude does Cassandra take towards her own death? |  |
| Aegisthus enters the picture from lines 1605-end. What is his role in the murder? What future role does the play forecast for him? Who holds the power flowing from the killing of Agamemnon, as far as you can tell from the play's conclusion? Explain. |  |