

Is the play an Aristotelian “organic unity?”

What are the major chunks and subplots?

Why is Polyxena in the story at all?

What kind of woman is she?

How does Polyxena's fate form an organic unity with Hecuba's revenge on Polymestor?

What does Odysseus add to the story?

Is he the Sophoclean bastard son of a bastard, or is he just doing what must be done?

Who is called a *demagogue*?

What references are there to persuasion?

Why was persuasion important in Athens?

What arguments does Hecuba make to Agamemnon (815–73)?

What different types of arguments does she make? Does she know she's using different types of arguments? How aware is she of rhetoric?

Does she ever use *eikos*-arguments? Of whom does that remind you?

Who is the sophist: Hecuba or Polymestor?

Do we have Helen-blaming or Helen-praising?

Who says what about Helen?

What conventions of tragedy does the *Hecuba* follow or break?

What's the deal with going inside the tent?

Who is wrong? Whom does the Chorus blame?

What values in the play are universal?

What customs are peculiar to one nation?

What does it mean if universal values do or do not exist? Whence could they arise?

What does the play say about gender?

What about nobility? Does Hecuba regain nobility by her revenge? Does Polyxena die nobly?

What does the play say about private nobility and public obligations?