

**euripides' conclusions on:
tragic characters & courage
9.5.19**

courage

euripides defines courage through the selfless bravery of iphigenia and achilles. iphigenia has a sense of willingness and duty as she states: "of my own free will i bequeath my body for my state and the whole of hellas" (euripides, 273). it is because of her acceptance of fate that euripides labels her with courage. achilles is defined by his compassion and stance against his own army. we learn of how he has been stoned by those who stand in opposition, yet continues to defy them for what he believes is right and just, (euripides, 265).

... brooke, kendra, skylar, diego, grace, erin, and addie

tragic character

to be a tragic character is to be put in a position where one's external circumstances conflict with one's moral or intrinsic values. such external circumstances are often, if not always, the result of fundamental character flaws. consequently, even though the character attempts to "make the right decision" this flaw leads to an inevitable, negative outcome (often a lose-lose situation). for example, agamemnon's eagerness for power ("you pretended otherwise... but, oh, how you wanted it" (euripides, 229) turns to ambition which he recognizes as bad, ("a dangerous glory, ambition ..." (euripides, 219)) which creates the impossible decision between killing his daughter and leading his army ("to do this is torture to me ... and torture if i don't, euripidess, 262)).

... juliet, mharie, mallory, josh, greyson, alan, and sanae

