

Film Worksheet—Medea

1. Throughout Euripides' *Medea*, references are made to what it means to be Greek and what it means to be an outsider. How does this bear on the action of the play?
2. Think about Medea's role as wife and mother in Greek society. How does this bear on the action of the play and affect your interpretation?
3. *Medea* is a descendant of the gods, and at the end of the play, Apollo sends a chariot, pulled by dragons, to take her to Athens. The film ends somewhat differently. How does the original ending bear on the action of the play and affect your interpretation? Does the ending used in the film lead you to view the ending differently?

4. Here is how Euripides ends the play:

CHORUS. Many are the Fates which Zeus in Olympus dispenses;/Many matters the gods bring to surprising ends./The things we thought would happen do not happen;/The unexpected God makes possible;/And such is the conclusion of this story.

Does this statement help decide how to interpret the play?

5. In the play *The Eumenides*, Apollo states the following: "The woman you call the mother of the child/is not the parent, just a nurse to the seed,/the new-sown seed that grows and swells inside her. /The *man* is the source of life—the one who mounts./She, like a stranger for a stranger, keeps /the shoot alive unless god hurts the roots." What does this suggest to you about the action in *Medea*?

6. List differences you noticed between the film and the play as you read it in your textbook
(Separate grade—1 point per difference!)