

Compare-Contrast

Junichiro Tanizaki	Sophocles
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Alike?

They both use important issues to show the different opinions of the family members.
They both talk about values of honor and loyalty to one's family.
They both include families that lost a father-figure.

Different?

Tanizaki	Category of Differences	Sophocles
Explores the issue using the narrative voice to show differing opinions	Differences in Writing Style	Explores the issue using dialogue to show differing opinions
Fuses Japanese storytelling with an experimental narrative		Heavily uses dramatic irony and foreshadowing
	Category of Differences	
Taeko goes against the family's wishes	Differences in Loyalty	Makes Antigone go against the state rather than her family
Sachiko is loyal to her family's traditions, but she also looks out for her sisters' best interests.		Antigone is extremely loyal to her brother, and protects his honor.
	Category of Differences	
Taeko falls in love with Okubata, who was accused of stealing and was disinherited by his family	Differences in Situation	In Antigone, the issue is that her brother hasn't been buried.
Sachiko is contemplating on whether she should kick Taeko out of the house or let her stay.		Antigone is asking Ismene's help in burying their brother.

Synthesis Statement	<p>The two writers both explore these issues quite differently. Both stories are about a family that is having problems. They both show values of honor and loyalty, and take place in a family without a father figure. The stories are quite different despite these similarities.</p> <p>First of all, their situations are extremely different. In Antigone, the issue is that her brother has not been buried, Creon has decreed "No man shall bury, none should wail for him." Antigone asks her sister for help in carrying out her task of burying Polynices, whereas Sachiko is asking herself whether or not she should let Taeko stay in her house.</p> <p>There is also quite a difference in the loyalties of the characters. By falling in love with Okubata, Taeko goes against the wishes of her family. Antigone on the other hand is loyal to her family and is even willing to risk her own life to honor her dead brother. Antigone is quite selfless, while Taeko puts her interests over those of her family.</p> <p>The writers also express the issues differently because they write differently. Tanizaki writes from the narrative voice in Sachiko's head, while Sophocles expresses the different opinions through dialogue. Tanizaki tells the story, while Sophocles foreshadows much more and uses irony to show what will happen next.</p>
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Compare-Contrast

Dialogue between Antigone and Ismene	Narrative voice reflecting Sachiko's thoughts and feelings
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Alike?

They both discuss a certain situation they have with one of the siblings in the family.
Both show different characters' opinions.

They both show that one of the character's opinions contradicts another character's opinion.

Different?

	Category of Differences	
The inner thoughts of Sachiko about what to do with Taeko and her love interest conflict with the opinions of her siblings and husband.	Difference in Discussion about the current conflict	The dialogue between Antigone and Ismene directly reveals their opinions about the situation.
Sachiko has a fear of bringing shame to the family if she does not obey them.		Antigone is not afraid to be punished by Creon for attempting to bury Polynices, even if it means death.
	Category of Differences	
Teinosuke wants Sachiko's help in stopping Taeko from seeing Okubata.	Difference in Dialogue of the Family Members	Ismene declines Antigone's plea for help and tries to stop her from continuing her plan to bury the body.
Teinosuke finds it embarrassing when he lets Taeko publicly go out with someone who was shamed by his own family.		Ismene is more accepting of her brother's death and fears that she may lose her sister.
	Category of Differences	
Sachiko on the inside is conflicted on what she should do with Taeko.	Differences in the Characters' Feelings	Unlike Ismene, Antigone has the courage to go against the laws of Thebes.
Sachiko thoroughly thinks about the consequences that may happen if she kicks out Taeko or disobeys her family's wishes.		Antigone is very stubborn and does not take the consequences into consideration.

Synthesis Statement	<p>The dialogue in Antigone and the narrative voice in the Makioka sisters are similar in that they both deal with a family issue, and both show the differing opinions of the family members. Apart from this, the two are quite different.</p> <p>The characters' feelings are quite different. Antigone is brave and is ready to go against the laws of Thebes and Creon's decree. She says "He has no right to stay me" referring to Creon's decree. Sachiko is conflicted, and unsure of what to do. She is thinking about her actions, whereas Antigone does not. This is evident in the line, "could Sachiko even consider turning her sister out?"</p> <p>The opinions of their family members are also very different. Ismene wants to stop Antigone from burying her brother's body. Teinosuke wants help from Sachiko, as he doesn't want Taeko to see Okubata. We know this because the text says "it embarrassed him to meet Kei-boy's brother on the links." Teinosuke is ashamed and embarrassed by his sister in law's actions, whereas Ismene is worried about Antigone. We know this because she constantly warns Antigone not to risk her life. She tells Antigone "You go on a fool's errand".</p> <p>The discussions they have are different as well. In Antigone, the dialogue between Antigone and her sister Ismene reveals their different opinions, whereas, in the Makioka Sisters, Sachiko's inner thoughts tell us her family members' opinions. Sachiko is afraid of bringing shame to the family. Antigone is also trying to protect her family's honor by burying her brother, but she is not afraid of the consequences.</p>
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Compare-Contrast

The Makioka Sisters	Antigone
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Alike?

They both lost their fathers.
They both have situations that involve one of their siblings.
Both families consist of four children.

Different?

	Category of Differences	
Sachiko takes the opinions of her sisters and her husband about Taeko into consideration.	Differences in Response Towards Family Members.	Antigone never even considers the advice of her sister.
Sachiko thinks about herself as a motherly figure towards Taeko, which is why she is so protective of her.		Antigone is frustrated by Ismene since she does not want to aid her in her dangerous task.
	Category of Differences	
Antigone's goal is to bury Polynices in order to honor him.	Differences in Objectives	Yukiko and Taeko wish to break away from their family traditions and live with Sachiko instead of the head of the house.
Antigone's goal is opposite from her sister's goal since Ismene wants to follow the laws of Thebes and avoid any punishment.		Yukiko and Taeko share a common goal in breaking the rules of their family tradition for their own self interests.
	Category of Differences	
Antigone's brothers, Polynices and Eteocles both killed each other in a civil war for the city of Thebes.	Differences in the Family Situation	Taeko has fallen in love with Okubata, a man disinherited from his family since he was accused of thievery.
Creon has restricted anyone from burying Polynices since he was declared as an enemy of the kingdom.		Taeko's relationship is highly inappropriate by her other sisters, and they believe that it would bring shame to the family.

Synthesis Statement	<p>In Antigone and the Makioka Sisters, the character's families influence their decisions and actions quite a lot. In both texts, the families don't have a father figure. This lack of authority causes issues in both stories. Both of them also are in situations involving their siblings, in a family of four children.</p> <p>The way Antigone and Sachiko think of and treat their family members is quite different. Sachiko is much more considerate of her family's opinions. Antigone on the other hand doesn't seem to care what her sister thinks of what she's doing. Sachiko tries to protect Taeko in the excerpt, "she, who had consistently protected Koi-san from the fury of the main house," whereas Antigone is willing to put Ismene at risk, and even feels betrayed when Ismene doesn't do so. This can be inferred when Antigone utters, "My own brother and yours I wild! If you will not, I will; I shall not prove disloyal."</p> <p>Despite having similar family structures, their situations are completely different. Antigone brothers killed each other in battle, while all Taeko did was love a dishonorable man. Antigone is restricted because Creon has decreed no one shall bury Polynices, which is her goal. Taeko is restricted because the man she wants to be with is disinherited, so marrying him would bring shame.</p> <p>Finally, their objectives are quite different. Antigone wants to bury her brother, to protect his honor. The two youngest Makioka sisters want to live with Sachiko instead of with the head of the house. Antigone's and Ismene's goals are not the same, while Yukiko and Taeko's goal is.</p>
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