



Euripides Medea

Medea Character List

Download a list of the characters that appear in *Medea*.

Print copies to use as class handouts or for students to add to their own notes.

Characters

Nurse - the nurse is a slave who has served in Medea's household. She is primarily responsible for helping Medea manage the household and look after the children.

Chorus of Corinthian women – it is important in the play that the chorus is made up of women, as their support of and then disagreement with Medea plays an important part in the play's examination of gender politics. There is also the fact that they are Greek, while Medea is barbarian.

Creon – the king of Corinth, the father of Glauke, and the intended future father-in-law of Jason.

Aegeus – the king of Athens (and future father of Theseus), who seeks help from Medea for his childlessness and who importantly offers her sanctuary in Athens.

Medea's children – appear in the play but do not speak, except for some pathetic exclamations from inside the house (i.e. off-stage) as Medea plans to kill them.

Medea - the central character of the play, onstage for most of the time.

Tutor – the tutor would, like the Nurse, have been a slave. He appears early in the play, worried about Medea's state of mind. He then appears nearer the end of the play to inform Medea of Creon's decision to allow the children to stay in Corinth.

Messenger – the Messenger speech is a characteristic feature of Greek tragedies. Here the messenger describes the handing over of the (lethal) gifts to Glauke.

Jason- the other central character. He meets Medea twice to debate and finally to lament the deaths of Creon, Glauke and his two children.

Jason's family can be found here: <http://www.musesrealm.net/familytrees/jason.html>.

Medea's family can be found here: <http://www.musesrealm.net/familytrees/medea.html>