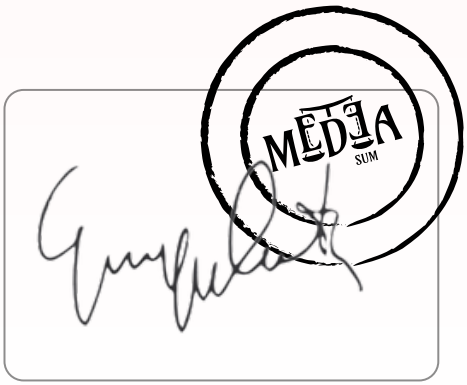
INVESTIGATION NOTEBOOK

JUSTICE & REVENGE

IMPORTANT NOTES



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INVESTIGATION SHEET	
Character	
Number of items selected	

From the evidence file provided by Judge Ginsburg, we have selected the items listed in the table below.

This **investigation sheet** will enable us to easily locate the items that will help us establish our character's profile.

Evidence collection carried out by (Surname, First name):

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GATHERING OF EVIDENCE	
Item No.	**Relevance to our investigation / our subject**

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GATHERING EVIDENCE	
Item No.	**Relevance to our investigation / our character**

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TESTIMONIAL

Character Profile	

Based on the ‘character profile’ we have drawn up, and by trying to anticipate the questions that might be put to us by the opposing parties, we are writing a testimony for our character here.
This testimony aims to defend our character: exaggeration, downplaying, accusation, paraphrasing, irony… All means are permitted, **except lying**.

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MEDEA
SUM

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INTERVIEW

Person being interviewed	

QUESTIONS / ANSWERS

For each person we have met in connection with this case, we have recorded our questions and their answers here.

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INVESTIGATION
Notebook

topic **JUSTICE AND REVENGE**

Testimonies have been collected that allow us to explore the theme of "Justice and revenge" in the story of Medea, according to Euripides, Seneca and Corneille.

SECTION 1 *Euripide*

NURCE (37-45)
"I fear she is planning something unheard of;
for her spirit is violent, and she will not tolerate
the outrage: I know her, and I fear her
that she will sharply thrust her sword into his liver,
climbing silently to the house where the bed is laid,
or even that she will kill the tyrant and the one who took his wife
and thus bring upon herself a greater misfortune.
Since she is so formidable, no one who has harboured
hatred towards her will easily sing the song of victory."

MEDEA (111-114; 159-165)
"I began to suffer, wretched woman, I began to suffer pains worthy
of great lamentations: O cursed
children of a hateful mother, may you die
with your father, and may the whole house go to ruin..."

"O great Themis and mighty Artemis
see what I suffer, even though I bound with solemn
oaths that detestable
husband? That I would like to see one day
with his bride destroyed in this very house,
they who dare to inflict wrongs upon me first"

"But these things will not turn out that way at all, do not believe it in any way.
There are still trials for the newlyweds
and no small pains for their relatives.
Do you really believe that I would ever have flattered this man
if not to gain some advantage or to plot something?"

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MEDEA (376-391; 401-406; 764-767)
“And having many ways to kill them,
I do not know which to choose first, my friends,
whether to set fire to the bridal chamber,
or to thrust my sharp sword through his liver,
after silently entering the room where the bed lies.
But there is one difficulty for me: if I am caught
as I pass through the palace gates and prepare the blow,
my death will make my enemies laugh.
The best thing is the direct route, which we are naturally
most capable of, that is, to get rid of them with poison.
So be it!
(...)
With deceit and in silence, I will pursue this massacre.”

“Go on, spare nothing of what you know,
Medea, in planning and plotting:
proceed towards horror: now is a test of courage.
Do you see what you are suffering? You must not give cause for derision
to the descendants of Sisyphus for this marriage of Jason,
you who were born of a noble father and descend from the Sun.”

“O Zeus and Justice of Zeus, and light of the Sun,
now we shall celebrate a great triumph over my enemies,
my friends, and we have set out on the road with method,
now there is hope that my enemies will pay the price.”

CHORUS (205-210; 267-269)
“I heard a cry resound painfully with long lamentations,
she lets out shrill cries of anguish
against the traitor in bed, the infamous husband;
the victim of injustice calls as witness
the daughter of Zeus, guardian of oaths, Themis, who made her go
to Hellas on the other side”

“You will rightly punish the groom,
Medea. And I am not surprised that you deplore the fate”

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SECTION 2 *Seneca*

MEDEA (Act 1, Scene 1, lines 1-55 - SEN 0001; Act 5, Scene 1, lines 910-953 - SEN0004; Act 3, Scene 1, lines 423-425 - SEN0010)

"Gods of marriage, I beg you. (...) I beg you with my mournful voice. Now, now you must come, goddesses avenging crimes, (...) death, give death to Jason's new bride, to her father-in-law, to the whole royal family, but give me something worse, that I may wish it upon my husband. (...) Can I not wish him anything worse? Yes, children similar to their father, similar to their mother. There, vengeance is done. I have given birth.
Seek it there, in the bowels, the path of vengeance, my soul, if you are still alive, if you have any of your former strength left. (...) Atrocious, horrendous, unheard-of are the crimes that stir my mind, enough to make heaven and earth tremble. Wounds, massacres, limbs torn to pieces... No, I am recalling trivial things. I did those as a virgin. My anger must rise higher. The crimes that await me are more atrocious now that I have given birth."

"Anger, my anger, where are you directed now?
What arrows are you hurling at that treacherous enemy?
(...) This is the revenge I like, the just one.
The supreme crime: my soul must prepare itself for this, I know now.
Children who were mine, you will pay for your father's guilt.
(...)
Let them die, they are not mine.
Let them die, they are mine. They are not guilty, I confess.
They are innocent. My brother was innocent too.
Why do you hesitate, my soul?
Why do these tears wet my face?
Hatred on one side, love on the other, tearing me apart, dividing me, why?
Opposing currents carry me away in my uncertainty."

"I will never find peace until I see
everyone dragged down with me to ruin; everyone will fall
when I fall."

"(...) my resentment will never cease to demand vengeance;
it will only grow. (...)
Supreme Jupiter, it is time for you to thunder from the sky. Stretch out your right hand,
prepare the flames of vengeance, and make this world tremble.
There is no need for you to choose when you launch your
arrows. Me or him. Whoever falls will be guilty. Between the two of us,
your lightning bolt cannot miss."

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CREON (Act 1, 195)
‘You must endure the king's command, whether just or unjust.’

JASON (205-210; 267-269)
"You, holy Justice, if you exist, up in heaven: I invoke your
divinity and call you as my witness: it is the children who have defeated their father.
Yes, I am convinced that even their mother, though wild at heart and
rebellious, would put her children above her marriage. I want to
confront her with prayers, that angry woman. (...)
She is furious, she exudes hatred. Her face shows all the
contempt in the world."

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SECTION 3 *Corneille*

MEDEA (Act I, Scene IV; Act III, Scene III; Act V, Scene II)
'I want my revenge to explode with justice.'
'Those who have taken everything from me must in turn lose everything.'
"Is revenge enough for you, are two deaths enough? Consult your most ardent passions at your leisure. Will snatching my wife from the arms of my perfidious husband satisfy my fury? Oh! If only she already had children by Jason, on whom I could better avenge their betrayal! Let us make do with our own; let us joyfully sacrifice those whom Creusa sends back to me to say goodbye. (...)
I lose you, my children, but Jason will also lose you; he will never see you again...'

'(My children) Let them die, they are not mine.
Let them die, they are mine. They are not to blame, I confess.
They are innocent. My brother was innocent too.
Why do you hesitate, my soul?
Why do these tears wet my face?
Hatred on one side, love on the other, tearing me apart, dividing me, why?
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EVIDENCE: AMO_0001_EN	
Title	Medea with her dead children, flees Corinth on a chariot drawn by serpents
Subtitle	Oil on Canvas
Author	Germán D. Hernández Amores
Date / Historical era	1887 / Contemporary
Theme(s)	Revenge & Justice Motherhood & Filicide
Character(s)	Medea, The Children
Language	EN
Description	The painting shows Medea standing in a chariot drawn by serpents, clutching the limp bodies of her two children as dark clouds swirl behind her, her expression tense. This moment captures her flight from Corinth immediately after killing her children in revenge for Jason's new marriage.

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EVIDENCE : COR_0001_EN	
Title	**Act V, Scene 7**
Subtitle	**Jason**
Author	**Corneille**
Date / Historical era	**Classical**
Theme(s)	**Revenge & Justice**
Character(s)	**Jason**
Language	**EN**
Translation	**Automatic translation generated using an AI-based tool and edited by the project team.** **This translation is provided for educational and non-commercial purposes.**

Extract

Go then, abhorrent fury, cursed and vile;

Wherever your chariot bears you on this earth,

I will carry war to that place.

Your bloody deeds will reveal your refuge,

And the echo of your crimes will guide me to you everywhere.

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EVIDENCE : COR_0001_EN	
Title	**Act V, Scene 7**
Subtitle	**Jason**
Author	**Corneille**
Date / Historical era	**Classical**
Theme(s)	**Revenge & Justice**
Character(s)	**Jason**
Language	**EN**
Translation	**Automatic translation generated using an AI-based tool and edited by the project team.** **This translation is provided for educational and non-commercial purposes.**

Extract

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EVIDENCE: EUR_0001_EN	
Title	Prologue
Subtitle	The Nurse explains the reason for Medea's pain.
Author	Euripides
Date / Historical era	Ancient
Theme(s)	Justice and revenge
Character(s)	The Nurse
Translation	Automatic translation generated using an AI-based tool and edited by the project team. This translation is provided for educational and non-commercial purposes.

Excerpt

Nurse

How I wish that the ship named Argo had never sailed towards Colchis! Medea would never have sailed towards the towers of Iolcus, madly in love with Jason!
Now everything has turned to hostility, and things are going badly, because Jason has betrayed his children and my mistress, choosing to take a princess as his bride, while Medea, his poor wife, stripped of her honor, appeals to the oaths made and recalls the strong promise of fidelity and loyalty she made to Jason, giving him her right hand.

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She lies fasting, abandoning her body to pain, consumed by tears since she learned that she had been treated without honor by her husband, never raising her eyes or her face from the ground.

Now that she hates her children and feels no joy in seeing them, I fear she is planning something unheard of; for her spirit is violent, and she will not tolerate the outrage: I know her, and I fear her.

She is a fearsome woman; whoever her enemy may be, he will not easily prevail over her.

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EVIDENCE: EUR_0012_EN	
Scene	Fifth stasimon (from 1144)
Subtitle	The messenger recounts Creusa's reaction to the arrival of her sons and Jason's mediation to save them from exile.
Author	Euripides
Date	Classic
Topic(s)	Betrayal and infidelity - Revenge
Character(s)	Messenger – Creusa – Jason
Translation	Automatic translation generated using an AI-based tool and edited by the project team. This translation is provided for educational and non-commercial purposes.

Excerpt

Messenger

"The mistress we now honor in your place,
before seeing your two children,
kept her passionate gaze fixed on Jason;
but then she covered her eyes
and turned her white cheek away,
feeling disgust at the children's entrance. Then your husband
tried to dispel the girl's anger and rage
by saying these words: 'Will you not be kind to those who are your friends,

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and put an end to your resentment, and turn your head again,
considering your husband's friends as your own,
and you will accept the gifts and ask your father
to pardon these children's exile for my sake? ‘
And she, as she turned her gaze to the ornaments, could not restrain herself,
but promised everything to her husband (...)’

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EVIDENCE: EUR_0013_EN	
Scene	Fifth stasimon (from 1186)
Subtitle	The messenger describes to Medea the agonizing death of Creusa and Creon.
Author	Euripides
Date	Classic
Topic(s)	Betrayal and infidelity - Revenge
Character(s)	Messenger – Creusa – Creon
Translation	Automatic translation generated using an AI-based tool and edited by the project team. This translation is provided for educational and non-commercial purposes.

Excerpt

Messenger

(Creusa) took the colorful peplos and put it on
(...) From that moment on, however, there was a terrible sight to behold
(...) the golden wreath placed around her head
emanated a strange torrent of voracious fire,
(...) the thin peplos, a gift from your sons,
devoured the white flesh of the unfortunate woman.
(...) a frightening sight. Everyone was afraid to touch
the corpse: (...)
Her father (...) threw himself on the corpse.

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(...) and, wrapping his arms around her,
kisses her (...)
remained attached to the thin peplos, (...)
He wanted to lift her knee,
but it held him back; if he pulled with force,
he would tear the old flesh from the bones.
In the end, the unfortunate man gave up and died
(...) The daughter and her old father lie dead.
(...) It seems that on this day the god has rightly brought
many evils upon Jason.

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EVIDENCE: EUR_00014_EN	
Title	VV 1350-1360
Subtitle	Medea justifies her revenge to Jason
Author	Euripides
Date / Historical era	Classico
Theme(s)	Revenge
Character(s)	Medea, Jason
Translation	Automatic translation generated using an AI-based tool and edited by the project team. This translation is provided for educational and non-commercial purposes.

Excerpt

Medea

I could prolong this discourse at length, if Father Zeus did not know what I have done to you and what you have done to me. After dishonoring my bed, you should not have been able to live a pleasant life, mocking me; neither your royal wife nor Creon, who arranged your marriage, could have driven me from this land without suffering harm. So, call me a lioness, if you will, and Scylla, who dwells on the Tyrrhenian soil. I have inflicted the appropriate retribution on your heart.

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EVIDENCE : LAW_0001_EN	
Title	**'On the murder of Eratosthenes' (speech by Lysias)**
Subtitle	**Athenian Law**
Author	**Unknown**
Date / Historical era	**Antiquity**
Theme(s)	**Revenge & Justice, Gender Roles & Patriarchy**
Character(s)	**None**
Language	**EN**

Excerpt

LAW ON ADULTERY. 'When a husband catches his wife in the act of adultery, he shall no longer be permitted to cohabit with her. If he does so, he shall be punished with *atimia**. Similarly, a woman caught in the act of adultery is forbidden from attending national religious ceremonies. If she does so, she may be subjected to any kind of treatment, *up to – but not including – death***, with impunity.'

** atimia : comes from the ancient Greek ἄτιμία and literally means 'deprivation of honour' or 'loss of civil rights'.*

*** The law prohibits killing an adulterous woman — even though it permits violence, humiliation, expulsion, and religious and social sanctions.*

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EVIDENCE: LAW_0006_EN	
Title	Royal authority in Corinth
Subtitle	**/**
Author	/
Date / Historical era	Antiquity
Theme(s)	Power & Powerlessness, Revenge and justice
Type	Legal concept
Language	**EN**
Translation	Automatic translation generated using an AI-based tool and edited by the project team. This translation is provided for educational and non-commercial purposes.

Excerpt

In the myth of Medea, the city-state of Corinth is described as a monarchy, with Creon as king.
In Euripides' and Seneque's plays:

- **King Creon** has **absolute authority**
- He can exile Medea **without trial**

Athenian philosophers, such as Aristotle, shared a wider ancient Greek viewpoint that

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was often critical of absolute power and supported legal systems that applied to all citizens.

Corinth itself experienced different forms of government, including monarchy, oligarchy, and tyranny, in which rulers' adherence to the laws differed.

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EVIDENCE: LAW_0007_EN	
Title	A foreign homeland: Colchis
Subtitle	**/**
Author	/
Date / Historical era	Antiquity
Theme(s)	Exile & Foreignness, Revenge and justice
Type	Concept
Language	**EN**
Translation	Automatic translation generated using an AI-based tool and edited by the project team. This translation is provided for educational and non-commercial purposes.

Excerpt

In her myth, Medea is said to come from the kingdom of **Colchis** (modern-day Georgia, near the Black Sea), just outside of the Greek world. As such, Colchis is described as a foreign place, in opposition to the Greek ideals of democracy. Justice in Colchis was likely decided by the king, in opposition to the rule of law in practice in Athens, the city of Euripides.

In Colchis, Medea is the **daughter of King Aeëtes:** as a member of the royal family, she would likely have been exempt from ordinary rules, and as a magician, she also held more power than the average person.

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However, this homeland is no longer accessible to her, as in her chosen exile, in support of the escape of Jason with the Golden Fleece, she killed and dismembered her brother, Prince Absyrtus.

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EVIDENCE: LAW_0009_EN	
Title	Homicide and exile: Draco’s Law
Subtitle	Athenian law
Author	Draco
Date / Historical era	Antiquity (7th century BCE)
Theme(s)	Exile & Foreignness, Revenge & Justice
Type	Law
Language	**EN**
Translation	Automatic translation generated using an AI-based tool and edited by the project team. This translation is provided for educational and non-commercial purposes.

Excerpt

"Even if a man not intentionally kills another, he is [to be] exiled."

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EVIDENCE: LOO_0001_EN	
Title	Miss Clairon as Medea
Subtitle	Oil on canvas
Author	Charles-André van Loo
Date / Historical era	1760 / Modern Era
Theme(s)	Revenge & Justice Power & Powerlessness
Character(s)	Medea, Jason
Language	EN
Description	The painting shows Medea standing in a dominant pose on her chariot, raising a flaming torch and holding a dagger as she confronts Jason, who looks up at her from below. Dark smoke and dramatic movement emphasize the moment of violent confrontation and Jason's helplessness.

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EVIDENCE: MUC_0001_EN	
Title	Médée
Subtitle	Promotion for Sarah Bernhardt’s performance
Author	Alphonse Mucha
Date / Historical era	1898 / Contemporary
Theme(s)	Hubris & Excessive Passion Revenge & Justice
Character(s)	Medea, The Children
Language	EN
Description	Mucha’s Medea is the “beauty-as-threat” figure, holding a bloody dagger in her hands and surrounded by bold colours and ornate patterns. At her feet lies her lifeless children, which underlines a sense of tragedy .

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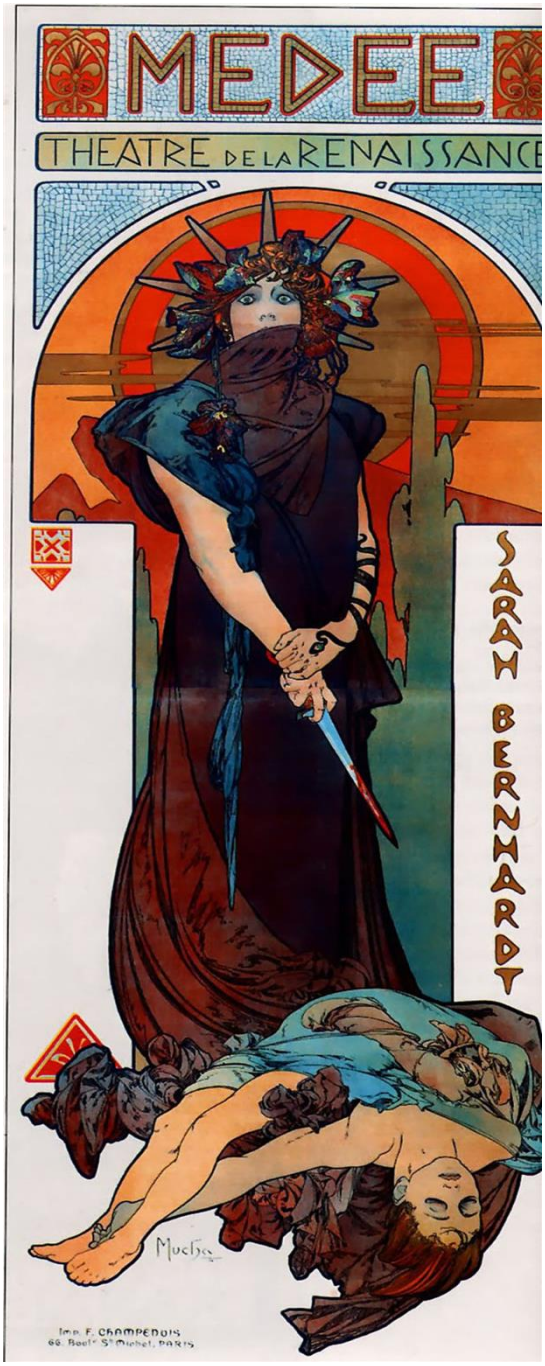

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EVIDENCE: SEN_0001_EN	
Title	**Act 1, scene 1, lines 1-55**
Subtitle	**Medea's monolog**
Author	**Seneca**
Date / Historical era	**Antiquity**
Theme(s)	**Vengeance, Betrayal, Exile, Motherhood, Justice**
Character(s)	**Medea**
Language	**EN**
Translation	**Translated by Ella Isabel Harris (1899)**

Excerpt

Medea

Ye gods of marriage; Lucina, guardian of the genial bed; Pallas, who taught the tamer of the seas To steer the Argo; stormy ocean's lord; Titan, dividing bright day to the world;

And thou three-formed Hecate, who dost shed Thy conscious splendor on the hidden rites! Ye by whom Jason plighted me his troth; And ye Medea rather should invoke: Chaos of night eternal; realm opposed

To the celestial powers; abandoned souls; Queen of the dusky realm; Persephone By better faith betrayed; you I invoke, But with no happy voice. Approach, approach, Avenging goddesses with snaky hair,

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Holding in blood-stained hands your sulphurous torch! Come now as horrible as when of yore Ye stood beside my marriage-bed; bring death To the new bride, and to the royal seed, And Creon; worse for Jason I would ask

Life! Let him roam in fear through unknown lands, An exile, hated, poor, without a home; A guest now too well known, let him, in vain, Seek alien doors, and long for me, his wife! And, yet a last revenge, let him beget

Sons like their father, daughters like their mother! 'Tis done; revenge is even now brought forth— I have borne sons to Jason. I complain Vainly, and cry aloud with useless words, Why do I not attack mine enemies?

(...)

Seek, my soul— If thou still livest, or if aught endures Of ancient vigor—seek to find revenge Through thine own bowels; throw off woman's fears, Intrench thyself in snowy Caucasus. All impious deeds Phasis or Pontus saw,

Corinth shall see. Evils unknown and wild, Hideous, frightful both to earth and heaven, Disturb my soul,—wounds, and the scattered corpse, And murder. I remember gentle deeds, A maid did these; let heavier anguish come,

Since sterner crimes befit me now, a wife! Gird thee with wrath, prepare thine utmost rage, That fame of thy divorce may spread as far As of thy marriage! Make no long delay. How dost thou leave thy husband? As thou cam'st.

Homes crime built up, by crime must be dissolved.

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EVIDENCE : SEN_0010_EN	
Title	**Act 3, Scene 1, lines 415-430.**
Subtitle	**Medea announces her intentions to the nurse.**
Author	**Seneca**
Date / Historical era	**Antiquity**
Theme(s)	**Revenge, hubris.**
Character(s)	**Medea, the nurse**
Language	**EN**
Translation	**Translated by Ella Isabel Harris (1899)**

Extract

Medea

Does jason fear the king? Thessalian war? True love fears nothing. He was forced to yield, unwillingly he gave his hand. But still he might have sought his wife for one farewell. This too he feared to do. He might have gained from Creon some delay of banishment. One day is granted for my two sons' sake! I do not make complaint of too short time, it is enough for much; this day shall see what none shall ever hide. I will attack the very gods, and shake the universe!

Nurse

Lady, thy spirit so disturbed by ills restrain, and let thy storm-tossed soul find rest.

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Medea

Rest I can never find until I see all dragged with me to ruin; all shall fall when I do;—so to share one's woe is joy.

Nurse

Think what thou hast to fear if thou persist; No one can safely fight with princely power.

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EVIDENCE: SEN_0014_EN	
Title	**Act 4, Scene 2, lines 816-848.**
Subtitle	**Medea poisons the robe destined for Creusa.**
Author	**Seneca**
Date / Historical era	**Antiquity**
Theme(s)	**Deities, vengeance.**
Character(s)	**Medea, the children**
Language	**EN**
Translation	**Translated by Ella Isabel Harris (1899)**

Extract

Medea

Endue this robe with such a baleful power that the bride may feel at its first touch consuming fire of serpent's poison in her inmost veins; Let fire lurk hid in the bright gold, the fire Prometheus gave and taught men how to store— He now atones his daring theft from heaven with tortured vitals. Mulciber has given this flame, and I in sulphur nurtured it; I brought a spark from the destroying fire of Phaeton; I have the flame breathed forth by the Chimæra, and the fire I snatched from Colchis' savage bull; and mixed with these Medusa's venom.

I have bade all serve My secret sorcery; now, Hecate, add The sting of poison, aid the seeds of flame Hid in my gift; let them deceive the sight But burn the touch; let the

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heat penetrate Her very heart and veins, stiffen her limbs, Consume her bones in smoke. Her burning hair shall glow more brightly than the nuptial torch!

My vows are paid, and Hecate thrice has barked, And shaken fire from her funeral torch.

'Tis finished! Call my sons. My precious gifts, Ye shall be borne by them to the new bride. Go, go, my sons, a hapless mother's sons! Placate with gifts and prayers your father's wife! But come again with speed, that I may know A last embrace!

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EVIDENCE : SEN_0016_EN	
Title	De Ira (On Anger), Book III, chapter 27
Subtitle	Revenge destroys the avenger
Author	Seneca
Date / Historical era	Antiquity: c. 41–45 CE
Theme(s)	Revenge & Justice
Type of source	Stoic philosophical treatise
Language	**EN**
Translation	Automatic translation generated using an AI-based tool and edited by the project team. This translation is provided for educational and non-commercial purposes

Excerpt

Anger is a passion that is "wholly excited and in assault, raging with an inhuman desire for pain, arms, and executions, self-neglectful while it harms another, eager to rush into the very weapons that will drag the avenger along with the vengeance.”

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EVIDENCE : SEN_0018_EN	
Title	***Epistulae morales ad Lucilium* (Moral Letters to Lucilius)**
Subtitle	**Being guilty of a crime is a punishment in itself**
Author	**Seneca**
Date / Historical era	**Antiquity: c. 41–49 CE**
Theme(s)	**Revenge & Justice**
Type of source	**Stoic philosophical letter**
Language	**EN**
Translation	**Automatic translation generated using an AI-based tool and edited by the project team.** **This translation is provided for educational and non-commercial purposes**

Extract

"The worst punishment for crime lies in the crime itself... the crime is punished immediately after it is committed; nay, rather, at the moment when it is committed."

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EVIDENCE: TRO_0001_EN	
Title	The Death of Creusa
Subtitle	Oil on Canvas
Author	Jean-François de Troy
Date / Historical era	1745 / Modern Era
Theme(s)	Revenge & Justice
Character(s)	Creusa, Creon
Language	EN
Description	The painting shows Creusa dying, consumed by the poisoned dress, next to her father, Creon, and surrounded by her grieving entourage.

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EVIDENCE: VIA_0001_EN	
Title	Medea
Subtitle	Photograph from a play
Author	Antoine Vialatte (director)
Date / Historical era	2012 / Contemporary
Theme(s)	Hubris& Excessive Passion Revenge & Justice
Character(s)	Medea
Language	EN
Description	The image shows Medea in a dark, glittering costume emerging from the shadows on a stage, her body tense and her gaze sharp as if she has just made a decisive choice. The dramatic lighting and posture suggest a moment of confrontation or inner resolve, emphasizing her isolation and emotional intensity.

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