

MEDEA SUM

THE MEDEA CASE



SUMMARY OF THE PLAY *MEDEA* BY PIERRE CORNEILLE

Medea, a powerful sorceress, lives in Corinth with **Jason** and their children. She has sacrificed everything for him: her family, her homeland, and even her moral principles.

But **Jason** decides to leave her to marry **Creusa**, the daughter of **King Creon**.

Medea loses everything:

- her husband (whom she loves)
- her children (Jason asks her to abandon her children)
- her place in the city (she is condemned to exile)

She then plots her revenge.

Nerine, her faithful servant, tries in vain to dissuade her.

She forms an alliance with **Aegeus**, the King of Athens, by agreeing to marry him.

Aegeus is then a prisoner of **King Creon**.

He had attempted to kidnap **Creusa**, who refused to marry him.

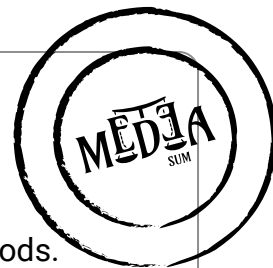
Then **Medea** kills **Creusa** with a poisoned dress.

She brings about the death of **King Creon**.

She kills her own children.

Finally, she frees **Aegeus** through her magic and flees in a chariot drawn by dragons.

Jason is devastated.



TWO CONFLICTING VIEWS

Those who accuse Medea

She acts with full awareness.
She chooses to kill her children.
She uses violence to take revenge.
For some ancient authors,
she is entirely responsible for her actions.

Those who defend Medea

She was manipulated by the gods.
She was betrayed and rejected.
She is a stranger and isolated.
To others, she is a victim of fate,
of power or of society.

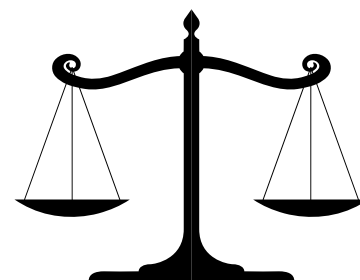
**Medea was condemned as a monster.
But is she the only one to blame?**

YOUR ROLE TODAY

You are not mere spectators. You are jurors.

Your task:

- to listen to the evidence
- to identify the arguments
- to ask questions
- to form your own opinion



THE WITNESSES CALLED TO GIVE EVIDENCE



MEDEA
sorceress,
betrayed wife



JASON
hero,
unfaithful
husband



CREUSE
princess,
new wife
of Jason



AEGEUS
King of Athens,
rejected suitor
of Creusa



NERINE
handmaiden
of Medea



CORNEILLE
author
of the play

NOTEBOOK

Arguments heard, what strikes me as convincing, what raises questions for me...



MEDEA



JASON



CREUSE

NOTEBOOK

Arguments heard, what strikes me as convincing, what raises questions for me...



AEGEUS



NERINE



CORNEILLE