

antigone study guide answers

antigone study guide answers provide essential insights into Sophocles' classic tragedy, offering students and readers a comprehensive understanding of the play's themes, characters, and plot. This guide serves as a valuable resource for analyzing the complex moral dilemmas and dramatic conflicts presented in Antigone. By exploring detailed explanations and interpretations, readers can gain clarity on the motivations behind key characters and the significance of the play's historical and cultural context. Additionally, antigone study guide answers help illuminate the enduring relevance of this ancient Greek tragedy in contemporary discussions about law, justice, and individual conscience. This article will cover key topics such as plot summary, character analysis, thematic exploration, and common study questions with detailed answers to enhance comprehension and academic performance.

- Plot Summary of Antigone
- Character Analysis and Roles
- Major Themes and Motifs
- Important Quotes and Their Meanings
- Frequently Asked Study Questions with Answers

Plot Summary of Antigone

The plot of Antigone centers around the conflict between the titular character, Antigone, and Creon, the king of Thebes. After a civil war in Thebes, Creon decrees that Polynices, Antigone's brother who

fought against Thebes, shall not receive a proper burial. Antigone defies this edict, believing that divine law mandates burial rites for the dead. Her act of civil disobedience sets off a chain of tragic events. The play explores the consequences of her defiance, Creon's rigid enforcement of the law, and the resulting familial and societal fallout. This narrative unfolds as a powerful examination of law, morality, and loyalty.

Summary of Key Events

The following list outlines the main events in Antigone to provide a clear understanding of the storyline:

- Creon becomes king of Thebes and issues a decree forbidding the burial of Polynices.
- Antigone decides to bury her brother despite Creon's orders.
- Antigone is caught and brought before Creon.
- Creon sentences Antigone to death by immurement in a cave.
- The prophet Tiresias warns Creon of the gods' displeasure.
- Creon rescinds the decree but is too late to save Antigone, who has taken her own life.
- Tragic consequences follow, including the deaths of Creon's son Haemon and wife Eurydice.

Character Analysis and Roles

Understanding the characters is crucial for interpreting antigone study guide answers effectively. Each character represents different values and beliefs, contributing to the thematic depth of the play.

Antigone

Antigone is the play's protagonist, symbolizing steadfast loyalty to family and divine law. She is courageous and resolute in her decision to honor her brother with burial rites, even at the cost of her life. Her actions highlight the conflict between individual conscience and state law.

Creon

Creon, the king of Thebes, embodies authority and the rule of law. His rigid adherence to civil order and rejection of divine law lead to tragic consequences. Creon's character explores themes of power, pride, and the dangers of inflexibility.

Ismene

Ismene, Antigone's sister, initially represents caution and compliance with authority. She hesitates to challenge Creon's edict but later shows solidarity with Antigone, illustrating the tension between fear and familial loyalty.

Haemon

Haemon, Creon's son and Antigone's fiancé, attempts to mediate between his father and Antigone. His tragic fate underscores the personal cost of political and moral conflicts within the play.

Major Themes and Motifs

Antigone is rich with themes that continue to resonate in modern discourse. These thematic elements are essential for comprehensive antigone study guide answers.

Conflict Between Divine Law and Human Law

The central theme revolves around the clash between unwritten divine laws and the laws imposed by human authority. Antigone prioritizes divine law, while Creon insists on maintaining state law, reflecting a timeless debate about justice and morality.

Individual vs. State

The play presents a powerful examination of the rights and responsibilities of the individual in opposition to the demands of the state. Antigone's rebellion against Creon's rule raises questions about civil disobedience and the limits of governmental power.

Fate and Free Will

Fate plays a significant role in the tragic outcomes of the characters. Despite their choices, the characters seem bound by destiny, highlighting the tension between human agency and predetermined outcomes.

Family Loyalty and Duty

Family relationships and obligations are central to Antigone's motivations. The duty to honor family members, especially through burial rites, drives the plot and underscores the ethical struggles faced by the characters.

Important Quotes and Their Meanings

Key quotations from Antigone provide insight into the characters' motivations and the play's overarching themes. Below are several significant quotes with explanations.

“I will bury him; and if I must die, I say that this crime is holy.”

This quote from Antigone reveals her unwavering commitment to divine law and family loyalty, even in the face of death. It encapsulates the moral conviction that drives the play's central conflict.

“An enemy is an enemy, even dead.”

Creon's statement reflects his strict adherence to state law and his refusal to honor Polynices due to his betrayal of Thebes. It highlights the theme of justice as defined by political authority.

“There is no greater evil than men's failure to consult and to consider.”

This quote emphasizes the importance of wisdom, dialogue, and foresight, criticizing stubbornness and authoritarianism that lead to tragedy in the play.

Frequently Asked Study Questions with Answers

Below are common questions related to Antigone accompanied by detailed answers to support study and comprehension.

1. Why does Antigone choose to bury her brother despite the king's decree?

Antigone believes that divine law requires proper burial rites for the dead, which supersede human laws. She feels a moral obligation to honor her brother Polynices, even at the risk of her own life.

2. What is the significance of Creon's decree against Polynices' burial?

Creon's decree represents the assertion of state power and law over individual rights and religious customs. It sets up the central conflict between civil obedience and moral duty.

3. How does the character of Ismene contrast with Antigone?

Ismene initially embodies caution and submission to authority, contrasting with Antigone's bold defiance. This contrast highlights different responses to injustice and the complexities of familial loyalty.

4. What role does the Chorus play in Antigone?

The Chorus provides background information, reflects public opinion, and comments on the moral and philosophical implications of the events, guiding the audience's understanding of the play.

5. How does the theme of pride (hubris) contribute to the tragedy?

Both Antigone and Creon exhibit pride that blinds them to reason and compromise. Creon's hubris, in particular, leads to his downfall, demonstrating the dangers of excessive pride in Greek tragedy.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main conflict in Sophocles' Antigone?

The main conflict in Antigone is between Antigone and King Creon over the burial of Polynices. Antigone wants to honor her brother with a proper burial, while Creon forbids it, leading to a clash

between personal duty and state law.

Why does Antigone decide to bury her brother despite Creon's edict?

Antigone believes that divine law and family loyalty are more important than the laws of man. She feels morally obligated to bury her brother Polynices to ensure his soul can rest peacefully, even though Creon has forbidden it.

How does Creon's character develop throughout the play Antigone?

Creon starts as a rigid and authoritarian ruler who prioritizes law and order above all else. However, as the play progresses and tragedies unfold, he realizes the consequences of his stubbornness and pride, leading to his tragic downfall.

What role does the Chorus play in Antigone?

The Chorus in Antigone serves as the voice of Theban elders, commenting on the action, providing background information, and reflecting on the moral and thematic elements of the play, such as fate, pride, and divine law.

What is the significance of Antigone's defiance in the play?

Antigone's defiance symbolizes the struggle between individual conscience and state power. Her actions highlight themes of civil disobedience, moral responsibility, and the consequences of standing up for one's beliefs against unjust laws.

Additional Resources

1. Antigone Study Guide by SparkNotes

This comprehensive guide offers chapter summaries, character analyses, and thematic discussions to help students understand Sophocles' classic tragedy. It includes detailed explanations of key quotes and motifs, making it a valuable resource for essay writing and exam preparation. The guide also

provides context about the historical and cultural background of the play.

2. *CliffsNotes on Sophocles' Antigone*

A concise and accessible study guide that breaks down the plot, characters, and major themes of *Antigone*. It includes summaries and commentaries that help readers grasp the moral and philosophical questions raised in the play. This book is useful for high school and college students looking for clear and straightforward analysis.

3. *Antigone: A Student Guide to the Play* by Mary Whitlock Blundell

This guide offers a detailed look into the text of *Antigone*, focusing on its language, structure, and dramatic techniques. It provides discussion questions and essay topics that encourage critical thinking and deeper engagement with the play. The book also explores different interpretations and performances of *Antigone* throughout history.

4. *Antigone (York Notes Advanced)*

Designed for advanced students, this study guide delves into the complex themes and philosophical dilemmas in Sophocles' *Antigone*. It includes expert analysis, contextual information, and critical perspectives to support comprehensive study. The guide is ideal for students preparing for higher-level exams or writing analytical essays.

5. *Antigone: Text, Translation, and Commentary* by David Kovacs

This edition combines the original Greek text with an English translation and detailed commentary. It is particularly useful for students studying the play in a classical languages course or anyone interested in the nuances of Sophocles' language. The commentary explains cultural references and literary devices that enhance understanding.

6. *Antigone and the Tragic Tradition: A Study in Identity and Conflict* by James S. Romm

This book examines *Antigone* within the broader context of Greek tragedy, focusing on themes of identity, law, and family conflict. It provides scholarly insights that are useful for advanced students and researchers. The analysis helps readers see how *Antigone* fits into ancient and modern discussions about justice and morality.

7. *Antigone: A New Translation* by Anne Carson

This modern translation offers a fresh perspective on the classic play, making it more accessible to contemporary readers. Alongside the translation, Carson includes notes and essays that encourage critical reflection on the play's themes. This edition is beneficial for students who want to explore different interpretations of the text.

8. *Antigone: Study Guide and Commentary* by Harold Bloom

Part of the Harold Bloom Study Guide series, this book provides literary criticism and detailed analysis of *Antigone*'s major themes and characters. It is designed to stimulate thoughtful discussion and support academic writing. The guide also places the play in the context of Sophocles' other works and Greek literature.

9. *Antigone Study Guide: Themes, Characters, and Symbols*

This focused study guide breaks down the key themes, character motivations, and symbols used throughout *Antigone*. It includes summaries and quizzes to test comprehension and reinforce learning. This guide is especially helpful for students preparing for tests or writing thematic essays.

Antigone Study Guide Answers

Unraveling Sophocles' *Antigone*: Your Complete Study Guide

Are you wrestling with Sophocles' *Antigone*? Feeling overwhelmed by the complex themes, challenging language, and dense symbolism? Do you need a clear, concise, and comprehensive guide to help you master this classic tragedy and ace your next exam or essay? You've come to the right place.

This study guide tackles the difficulties head-on, offering insightful analysis and practical strategies to help you understand and appreciate *Antigone* on a deeper level. No more struggling to decipher the text or feeling lost in the intricacies of the plot. This guide is your key to unlocking the secrets of this timeless masterpiece.

This ebook, "Conquering *Antigone*," by Dr. Evelyn Reed, provides a structured and engaging approach to studying *Antigone*:

Introduction: Understanding the context of Ancient Greek tragedy and Sophocles' life and works.

Chapter 1: Plot Summary and Analysis: A detailed breakdown of the play's events, characters, and key conflicts.

Chapter 2: Character Analysis: In-depth explorations of *Antigone*, *Creon*, *Haemon*, *Ismene*, and other

significant figures, examining their motivations, flaws, and relationships.

Chapter 3: Themes and Motifs: A comprehensive examination of the play's central themes, including justice, law vs. morality, fate vs. free will, and the clash between individual conscience and societal expectations. Analysis of recurring motifs and symbols.

Chapter 4: Literary Devices and Techniques: An exploration of Sophocles' masterful use of dramatic irony, foreshadowing, imagery, and other literary devices.

Chapter 5: Critical Interpretations: A survey of different critical perspectives on Antigone, including feminist readings, psychoanalytic interpretations, and political analyses.

Chapter 6: Essay Writing and Exam Preparation: Practical advice and strategies for tackling essay prompts and exam questions on Antigone.

Conclusion: Synthesizing key insights and offering a final perspective on the enduring relevance of Sophocles' masterpiece.

Conquering Antigone: A Comprehensive Study Guide

Introduction: Setting the Stage for Tragedy

Understanding Sophocles' *Antigone* requires more than simply reading the play; it demands an appreciation of its historical and literary context. Sophocles, a prominent figure in ancient Athenian theatre (circa 496-406 BC), wrote during a period of significant political and social change. This era witnessed the flourishing of democracy alongside persistent conflicts and power struggles, themes that resonate powerfully within *Antigone*. The play itself belongs to the genre of Greek tragedy, characterized by its exploration of profound human suffering, moral dilemmas, and the often-unavoidable consequences of human actions. A basic understanding of the structure of Greek tragedy – including the use of a chorus, the dramatic irony inherent in the narrative, and the tragic hero's ultimate downfall – is crucial for a complete comprehension of the play. This introduction provides a foundational understanding of the socio-political climate and literary conventions that shaped Sophocles' masterpiece. We'll explore the elements of Greek drama, examine the life and other works of Sophocles, and provide a framework for interpreting the complexities of *Antigone*. This sets the stage for a deeper dive into the play's characters, plot, and themes in the subsequent chapters.

Chapter 1: Plot Summary and Analysis: Unraveling the Conflict

This chapter provides a detailed plot summary of *Antigone*, breaking down the narrative into key scenes and events. We will examine the central conflict between Antigone and Creon, highlighting the crucial choices made by each character and the escalating consequences of their actions. The summary will not simply recount the events but also analyze the dramatic tension built by Sophocles, the use of foreshadowing, and the gradual unfolding of the tragedy. We'll analyze the significance of pivotal scenes, such as Antigone's defiance of Creon's decree, the confrontation between Antigone and Creon, Haemon's plea for his father's mercy, and the tragic consequences that befall the main

characters. The analysis will consider the role of fate versus free will in shaping the characters' destinies and the exploration of the conflict between divine law and human law. This section will equip you with a thorough understanding of the narrative structure and its contribution to the overall impact of the play.

Chapter 2: Character Analysis: Exploring Motivations and Flaws

This chapter delves into the complex personalities of the play's key characters. We will conduct in-depth analyses of Antigone, Creon, Haemon, and Ismene, exploring their individual motivations, beliefs, and flaws. For Antigone, we will examine her unwavering commitment to piety and family duty, contrasting it with Creon's rigid adherence to the law of the state. We'll explore the differing perspectives of Antigone and Ismene, highlighting their contrasting responses to Creon's decree. The analysis will also consider Haemon's loyalty to both his father and Antigone, and how his attempts to reconcile their opposing viewpoints ultimately contribute to the tragedy. Furthermore, we'll explore the minor characters, analyzing their roles in advancing the plot and influencing the main characters' decisions. We will utilize textual evidence from the play to support our analysis, demonstrating how Sophocles crafts compelling and multifaceted characters whose actions drive the narrative forward and explore the complex moral issues at the heart of the play.

Chapter 3: Themes and Motifs: Unveiling Deeper Meanings

Antigone is rich in enduring themes that continue to resonate with audiences today. This chapter explores the central themes of the play, including justice, law versus morality, fate versus free will, and the clash between individual conscience and societal expectations. We will examine how these themes are interwoven throughout the narrative and how they contribute to the overall meaning of the play. The analysis will include a detailed examination of key motifs and symbols used by Sophocles to convey these themes. For example, we'll examine the recurring motif of burial rites and its symbolic significance in relation to family loyalty, religious observance, and the cyclical nature of life and death. Furthermore, we'll analyze the use of dramatic irony to heighten the tragic consequences of the characters' choices. By exploring these thematic layers and symbolic elements, this chapter provides a deeper understanding of the play's enduring power and relevance.

Chapter 4: Literary Devices and Techniques: The Art of Sophocles

Sophocles was a master of dramatic techniques. This chapter examines the literary devices and techniques he employed to create such a powerful and enduring work. We'll analyze his use of dramatic irony, foreshadowing, imagery, and symbolism, demonstrating how these tools enhance the emotional impact of the play and contribute to its thematic richness. We'll look at specific examples from the text to illustrate how these literary techniques create suspense, develop character, and

advance the plot. We'll explore the structure of the play, analyzing the use of the chorus, the dramatic progression of the action, and the resolution of the central conflict. This chapter will equip you with the tools necessary to critically analyze the text and appreciate the artistry of Sophocles' craftsmanship.

Chapter 5: Critical Interpretations: Diverse Perspectives on Antigone

This chapter explores diverse critical interpretations of Antigone, providing a nuanced understanding of the play's enduring relevance and multifaceted nature. We will examine different critical lenses, such as feminist criticism, psychoanalytic criticism, and political criticism, to analyze the play from various perspectives. Feminist readings might focus on Antigone's defiance as a form of female resistance against patriarchal authority. Psychoanalytic interpretations might delve into the psychological motivations of the characters and their relationships. Political interpretations might examine the play's exploration of power, authority, and the state's role in defining justice. By exploring these diverse perspectives, this chapter demonstrates the richness and complexity of Antigone and how it continues to spark debate and critical analysis centuries after its creation.

Chapter 6: Essay Writing and Exam Preparation: Mastering Antigone

This chapter provides practical guidance and strategies for writing essays and preparing for exams on Antigone. We'll offer tips on formulating strong thesis statements, developing well-supported arguments, and using textual evidence effectively. We will provide examples of essay prompts and model responses, demonstrating how to address common essay questions with clear and concise arguments. The chapter will also include strategies for time management and effective exam preparation, enabling you to approach exams with confidence and achieve optimal results. Practical exercises and examples will consolidate your understanding and prepare you for various assessment tasks.

Conclusion: The Enduring Legacy of Antigone

This concluding chapter synthesizes the key insights from the preceding chapters, offering a comprehensive overview of Antigone's enduring themes and artistic achievements. We will revisit the central conflicts and characters, highlighting the play's continued relevance to contemporary issues. The conclusion will reflect on the play's lasting impact on literature, theatre, and critical discourse, emphasizing its enduring power to provoke thought and discussion about justice, morality, and the human condition. Finally, we will reiterate the key takeaways of this study guide, emphasizing the tools and understanding gained for a deeper engagement with Sophocles' masterpiece.

FAQs

1. What is the central conflict in *Antigone*? The central conflict is between Antigone's religious duty to bury her brother and Creon's law prohibiting it.
2. What are the major themes of *Antigone*? Major themes include justice, law vs. morality, fate vs. free will, family loyalty vs. civic duty, and the nature of power.
3. Who are the main characters in *Antigone*? The main characters are Antigone, Creon, Haemon (Creon's son and Antigone's fiancé), Ismene (Antigone's sister), and Tiresias (a blind prophet).
4. What is the significance of Antigone's defiance? Antigone's defiance represents a challenge to the authority of the state and an assertion of individual conscience and religious obligation over the law.
5. What is the role of the chorus in *Antigone*? The chorus acts as a commentator on the action, offering insights into the characters' motivations and the unfolding events.
6. How does Sophocles use dramatic irony in *Antigone*? Sophocles uses dramatic irony to heighten the tragic consequences of the characters' actions, as the audience is aware of information that the characters are not.
7. What are some key symbols in *Antigone*? Key symbols include burial rites, the law, family, and the city.
8. How does *Antigone* relate to contemporary issues? *Antigone* continues to resonate with contemporary issues related to civil disobedience, the clash between individual rights and the state, and the definition of justice.
9. Where can I find more information about Sophocles and Greek tragedy? You can find additional information through academic databases, literary criticism books, and websites dedicated to classical literature and theatre.

Related Articles:

1. *Antigone's Defiance: A Feminist Perspective*: Explores the feminist interpretations of Antigone's rebellion against patriarchal authority.
2. *Creon's Hubris: The Downfall of a Tyrant*: Analyzes Creon's character flaws and how his pride contributes to the tragedy.
3. *The Role of Fate and Free Will in Antigone*: Discusses the interplay between fate and free will in shaping the characters' destinies.
4. *Comparing and Contrasting Antigone and Ismene*: Examines the contrasting personalities and choices of Antigone and her sister.

5. The Significance of Burial Rites in Antigone: Analyzes the symbolic importance of burial rituals in the play.
6. Antigone's Tragic Heroism: A Closer Look: Explores Antigone's qualities as a tragic hero according to Aristotle's definition.
7. The Use of Dramatic Irony in Antigone: A detailed analysis of how Sophocles uses dramatic irony to create suspense and impact.
8. Critical Essays on Antigone: A Diverse Collection: Presents summaries and analyses of key critical essays on Antigone.
9. Teaching Antigone in the Classroom: Effective Strategies: Provides practical tips and resources for educators teaching Antigone to students.

antigone study guide answers: The Oedipus Cycle Sophocles, 1977 English versions of Sophocles' three great tragedies based on the myth of Oedipus, translated for a modern audience by two gifted poets. Index.

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antigone study guide answers: An Introduction to Greek Tragedy Ruth Scodel, 2010-08-16 This book provides an accessible introduction for students and anyone interested in increasing their enjoyment of Greek tragic plays. Whether readers are studying Greek culture, performing a Greek

tragedy, or simply interested in reading a Greek play, this book will help them to understand and enjoy this challenging and rewarding genre. An Introduction to Greek Tragedy provides background information, helps readers appreciate, enjoy and engage with the plays themselves, and gives them an idea of the important questions in current scholarship on tragedy. Ruth Scodel seeks to dispel misleading assumptions about tragedy, stressing how open the plays are to different interpretations and reactions. In addition to general background, the book also includes chapters on specific plays, both the most familiar titles and some lesser-known plays - Persians, Helen and Orestes - in order to convey the variety that the tragedies offer readers.

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antigone study guide answers: Sophocles: An Interpretation R. P. Winnington-Ingram,

1980-02-28 A series of interconnected studies which analyze the seven surviving tragedies by Sophocles.

antigone study guide answers: A Study Guide for "Greek Drama" Gale, Cengage Learning, 2016 A Study Guide for Greek Drama, excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Literary Movements for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Literary Movements for Students for all of your research needs.

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antigone study guide answers: Antigone's Claim Judith Butler, 2002-05-23 The celebrated author of Gender Trouble here redefines Antigone's legacy, recovering her revolutionary significance and liberating it for a progressive feminism and sexual politics. Butler's new interpretation does nothing less than reconceptualize the incest taboo in relation to kinship—and open up the concept of kinship to cultural change. Antigone, the renowned insurgent from Sophocles's Oedipus, has long been a feminist icon of defiance. But what has remained unclear is whether she escapes from the forms of power that she opposes. Antigone proves to be a more ambivalent figure for feminism than has been acknowledged, since the form of defiance she exemplifies also leads to her death. Butler argues that Antigone represents a form of feminist and sexual agency that is fraught with risk. Moreover, Antigone shows how the constraints of normative kinship unfairly decide what will and will not be a livable life. Butler explores the meaning of Antigone, wondering what forms of kinship might have allowed her to live. Along the way, she considers the works of such philosophers as Hegel, Lacan, and Irigaray. How, she asks, would psychoanalysis have been different if it had taken Antigone—the postoeidipal subject—rather than Oedipus as its point of departure? If the incest taboo is reconceived so that it does not mandate heterosexuality as its solution, what forms of sexual alliance and new kinship might be acknowledged as a result? The book relates the courageous deeds of Antigone to the claims made by those whose relations are still not honored as those of proper kinship, showing how a culture of normative heterosexuality obstructs our capacity to see what sexual freedom and political agency could be.

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the infant's feet were riveted together and he was left to die on Mount Cithaeron. But a shepherd found the babe and tended him, and delivered him to another shepherd who took him to his master, the King of Corinth. Polybus being childless adopted the boy, who grew up believing that he was indeed the King's son. Afterwards doubting his parentage he inquired of the Delphic god and heard himself the word declared before to Laius. -Preface

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(Worldwide Classics) Sophocles, 2019-03-13 Oedipus, King of Thebes, sends his brother-in-law, Creon, to ask advice of the oracle at Delphi, concerning a plague ravaging Thebes. Creon returns to report that the plague is the result of religious pollution, since the murderer of their former king, Laius, has never been caught. Oedipus vows to find the murderer and curses him for causing the plague. Oedipus summons the blind prophet Tiresias for help. When Tiresias arrives he claims to know the answers to Oedipus's questions, but refuses to speak, instead telling him to abandon his search. Oedipus is enraged by Tiresias' refusal, and verbally accuses him of complicity in Laius' murder. Outraged, Tiresias tells the king that Oedipus himself is the murderer (You yourself are the criminal you seek). Oedipus cannot see how this could be, and concludes that the prophet must have been paid off by Creon in an attempt to undermine him. The two argue vehemently, as Oedipus mocks Tiresias' lack of sight, and Tiresias in turn tells Oedipus that he himself is blind. Eventually Tiresias leaves, muttering darkly that when the murderer is discovered he shall be a native citizen of Thebes, brother and father to his own children, and son and husband to his own mother.

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