Mr. Valentine’s 10th Grade English – Study Guide for Unit 2, Week 1.5 – *Medea* by Euripides

1. What is the setting of *Medea*?

2. Some side characters, the Tutor and the Nurse, introduce the conflict or basic situation of the play. What is the primary conflict, or problem, of the story?

3. Understandably, Medea hates Jason for what he’s done. However, who else does she hate? Who else does she wish to die?

4. What sacrifices has Medea made for Jason?

5. Do women have equal rights as men in Corinth? If not, how?

6. In stories of epic heroes, the hero is often an outsider come to solve the people’s problems. Here, Medea’s role as outsider is very different. How is being an outsider different for her?

7. For her anger, Jason’s future father in law and king of this land, Creon, does what to Medea and her children? Infer why he might be doing this. Predict. Why can’t she go home to Colchis?

8. What does Medea’s begging Creon get her, if anything?

9. How does Jason try to throw the blame back on Medea?

10. At this point, Medea has at least three big reasons for being angry. What are they?

11. Who does Medea confide all her woes and troubles in, and what alternative to exile does she find with him?

12. Medea plans a way to get revenge before she leaves into exile. She plans to play nice and pretend to be okay with Jason’s new plans, claiming that she only begs mercy for her children to be allowed to stay and not suffer exile with her. In reality, she is planning to do what nefarious deeds?

13. The Chorus tries to dissuade Medea from part of her plan, the part that breaks with “the laws of humanity” (Euripides 41). What part of her plan is going too far? What “law of humanity” is she violating?

14. The old myths of Medea and her plight do not typically include her killing her own children – Just Jason’s bride and her father. Why add this crime? What does this change about Medea’s character? How might we feel about her if she didn’t kill her children, but just Glauce and Creon?

15. How does the story end?