

Response Paper #1
Jace Frank, 2/4/2020

Circe, Penelope, and Antigone all defied the typical connotations of women in their time period. Whether it was taking care of men and having the power to keep them in her grips, taking care of a kingdom when her husband was away, or defying orders from men when she knew that things were wrong. All these things that these different women went through shows just how powerful they all were. These traits and actions in this time period also scared men in addition to displaying their hopes in life. One can see why these three women can be accredited to their prosperity, resilience, and persistence while also showing the male fear in humility and the male hope in loyalty.

Circe was a goddess who kept Odysseus and his men with her for over a year. She was able to do this through supplying them with the finest lifestyle and goods which they had not received in a long time due to their time at sea. She gave them food, clothing, nice living arrangements, and with Odysseus, sex. She had power in her prosperity. She had all these lavish things without the help of a husband or any other man. She asked for nothing in return from the men, she simply supplied them with food and clothing by her own abilities. This prosperity without any help showed how powerful she truly was.

In the case of Penelope, she was shown as powerful through her acts of resilience. She loved her husband with all her heart and knew deep down that regardless of what people said, that he was still alive. She raised her son by herself and held true to Odysseus, despite suitors coming in droves to try to marry her. She even went as far to play games with them and seduce them without any real intention of marrying them. This resilience from her to fight back against the standards and to keep going despite being far away from her husband shows her strength. She

persevered and kept true to his name regardless of how many men came into her household to try to take over his fortune. This shows incredible strength to stand on her own as she raised her child and kept a household safe that was coveted by many men.

Antigone is a great example of the strength in persistence. She had her brother die and the king would not give him a proper burial. She found this as incredibly unjust and stood up to the king. This backlash to a king's orders was unheard of, especially by a woman. She buried him despite the king's orders and for that she was buried alive. She persisted in what she knew was right. Her persistence would end up causing Creon's son, who was in love with Antigone, to kill himself and the death of the queen who was distraught by the suicide of her son. Antigone defied what was expected of her and persisted against all odds to give her brother the burial he deserved. This strength in a woman to defy a man's law and even make fun of him in the process shows the sure strength that she contained.

In this, all three of these characters represented some parts of male hopes and fears. All three showed the male hope in loyalty. Circe was loyal to Odysseus in that she only slept with him and she cared for him as well as those that he was traveling with. She did not betray them, but rather welcomed them in. Penelope stayed loyal to him while he was away at sea by not remarrying any of the suitors she met. Antigone stayed loyal to her brother by defying all laws to give her brother a proper burial. These women also show the fear of humility. With Circe, she kept the men there for over a year which the men don't want to admit they succumbed to. Penelope humiliated the suitors that tried to entice her by leading them on and doing nothing. Antigone humiliated Creon by insulting his character and blatantly defying his laws.

These women are very strong, especially given the time period that they are in. They show strength in prosperity, resilience, and persistence. They also may represent men's hope of

loyalty as well as their fear of humility. These three women are clear examples of how a woman can stand on her own even in these times.