The Seven Against Thebes Notes

I. Polyneices has been buried and his shade enters the depths of Hades, the Underworld
   A. Five other chieftains (and their men) lay unburied
   B. Creon will not bury them

II. Adrastus (the last surviving chieftain) asks Theseus for help
   A. Theseus refuses to help since Adrastus (of Argos) attacked Thebes
   B. Aethra, Theseus’ mother, interrupts and pulls Theseus aside
      1. Aethra says it is his duty to help
      2. Theseus says he must ask his citizens (republic)
   C. The Athenian elders decide to help if Creon refuses once more to bury the dead

III. A Theban herald arrives
   A. debates with Theseus over the effectiveness of a monarchy versus a republic
   B. Theseus then sends the herald to deliver a message to Creon
      1. bury the dead or Athens will intervene

IV. Creon refuses and the Athenian army marches to Thebes
   A. Thebans fear they will be made slaves
   B. Theseus only wants the chieftains’ bodies for burial
      1. personally cleans, creates the bier, and buries the bodies
   C. Adrastus speaks the last rites
      1. Capaneus, Eteocles, Hippomedon, Parthenopaeus, and Tydeus
   D. Evadne, Capaneus’ wife, ends her life by jumping onto the pyre
V. The sons of the buried vow revenge upon Thebes
   A. Ten years later they march on Thebes in victory
      1. Thebes is leveled
      2. Tiresias dies during the siege
   B. These conquering sons were known as the Epigoni (the after-born)
      1. so-named because they entered the world too late and all the great deeds had been done
      2. Diomede (son of Tydeus) did gain honor fighting at Troy