

Medea's Kin-Killing: A Perversion of Familial Bonds

This poster explores all cases of familial murder committed or induced by Medea to shed light on her status as a self-proclaimed family woman. Despite this proclamation, Medea kills many of her male relatives, including her brother Apsyrtus, her children, and her uncle Perses. She sacrifices these bonds for newer chosen family bonds that she focuses on instead. Medea murders three people who are not her own relatives, in addition to one attempted victim. In each instance, Medea exploits the victim's family ties. Medea utilizes her own children to deliver poisoned gifts to Creon's daughter, and this poison kills Creon as well. Later, she convinces Aegeus to attempt to murder his son Theseus twice. Medea is unsuccessful, however, as Theseus survives. Earlier in Medea's journey, after she kills Apsyrtus, Medea tricks Pelias's daughters into killing him. The daughters chop up and boil Pelias, believing it will rejuvenate him. Other female murderers in myth kill their siblings, children, or husbands, but none of them, except for Pelias' daughters, murder their parents. This kill is also the only time in which mortals induce others to kill.

My poster will lay out each murder Medea performs or orchestrates, describing how they each break or exploit the victim's family ties. Medea shows that she is willing to sacrifice her blood family for different family bonds she prioritizes more, and she is willing to make use of the family members of her victims to achieve their deaths.

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