

## GUIDE TO THE STRUCTURE OF THE MEDEA

**Prologue:** Nurse and Tutor (Medea offstage offering laments)

<sup>st</sup>  
**1 Chorus:** Plight of Medea (Medea still offstage lamenting)

<sup>st</sup>  
**1 Scene:** Medea's first appearance

- Medea's (cool and composed) speech on the condition of women
- Medea's negotiations with Creon
- Medea's dialogue with the Chorus (reveals her deceit of Creon)

<sup>nd</sup>  
**2 Chorus:** Men will now be seen as deceivers (forgetting/overlooking Medea's deceit)

<sup>nd</sup>  
**2 Scene:** Medea's debate with Jason

<sup>rd</sup>  
**3 Chorus:** power of Aphrodite; plight of Medea

<sup>rd</sup>  
**3 Scene:** Medea's negotiation with Aegeus

- Aegeus is an old, childless man: sparks idea of M's revenge on Jason
- Medea will provide him with children (Medea as witch)
- Medea reveals her full plot to Chorus (Medea as warrior)

<sup>th</sup>  
**4 Chorus:** Pleads with Medea not to kill the children

<sup>th</sup>  
**4 Scene:** Medea fools Jason and sends the children off with the poison gift

<sup>th</sup>  
**5 Chorus:** Lament of the helpless Chorus

<sup>th</sup>  
**5 Scene:** Medea's debate with herself

<sup>th</sup>  
**6 Chorus:** The intelligence of women; the gift/burden of children

<sup>th</sup>  
**6 Scene:** Medea hears of the deaths of the princess and Creon; resolves to kill the children

<sup>th</sup>  
**7 Chorus:** Call on gods to stop Medea; death of children; Medea now "stone and iron"

<sup>th</sup>  
**7 Scene:** Medea, in chariot (above humanity), taunts Jason

Study Guide by John Protevi:

<http://www.protevi.com/john/FH/PDF/Medea.pdf>