

Emily Coffin
Summer Final Report

This summer I worked with Professor Sobak to explore my interest in ancient practices regarding childhood death, burial, and motherhood by working with texts and translating them. The translated texts were used to further a project involving an app for the purpose of practicing and learning accent marks in Ancient Greek. My work involved a lot of translating and figuring out the ancient texts on my end so that they could be used for the project.

Last semester, I read the *Medea* with another professor and another student and the material within the tragedy got me interested in how the ancient Greeks understood childhood, motherhood, and child rearing. I reread the *Medea* texts in order to gain a greater understanding of the text. When I read the play for class, we had to fly past the sections that interested me most, so this summer was a wonderful opportunity to reexamine lines with care. Medea, for example, debates within herself if she will murder her children or not. There is also debate among scholars if Medea ever really debates her evil act, or if she's decided from the start. The summer gave me a lot of time with Medea.

In translating the text for Professor Sobak and the sake of accent marks, I also pursued minute grammatical details that we didn't get to in class during the school year. The form of the tragedy presented challenges from a grammatical standpoint. For example, the accent marks would change location or not appear due to elision and meter. The tricky details surrounding verb placement and Attic dialect was challenging but rewarding because the Attic dialect is more common than others and playing around with it will further my future studies. This summer was a blast, and Professor Sobak was a wonderful mentor. I'm truly grateful for the opportunity I was given.