

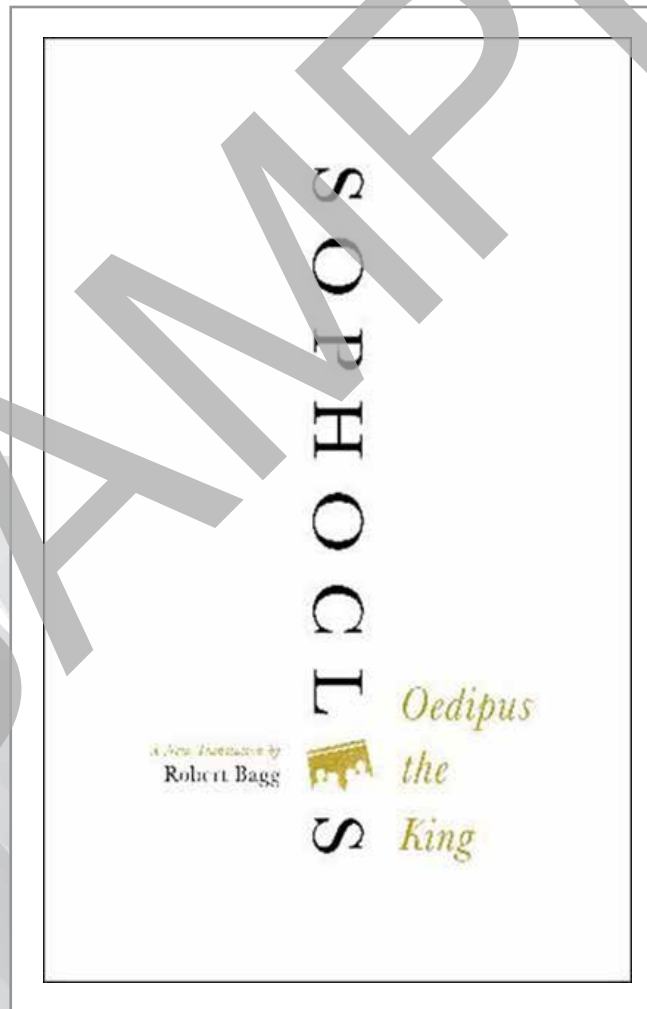


STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 9-12

Oedipus the King

Sophocles



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

Oedipus the King

Sophocles

STUDENT PACKET

NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

ISBN 978-1-50204-841-7

Copyright infringement is a violation of Federal Law.

© 2020 by Novel Units, Inc., St. Louis, MO. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, translated, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any way or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise) without prior written permission from Novel Units, Inc.

Reproduction of any part of this publication for an entire school or for a school system, by for-profit institutions and tutoring centers, or for commercial sale is strictly prohibited.

Novel Units is a registered trademark of Conn Education.

Printed in the United States of America.

To order, contact your local school supply store, or:

Toll-Free Fax: 877.716.7272

Phone: 888.650.4224

3901 Union Blvd., Suite 155

St. Louis, MO 63115

sales@novelunits.com

novelunits.com

Name _____

Oedipus the King
Activity #3: Actively Relating to the Text
Use Before Reading

Directions: Use the following sentence-starters for free-writing in your literature response journal.

1. The idea that nothing happens by chance...
2. The expression "Don't shoot the messenger..."
3. When we talk about the "Oedipal conflict" today...
4. Understanding yourself...
5. An adopted child who wants to know about his "real" parents...
6. Riddles...
7. Having a hot temper...
8. Making snap decisions...
9. Predicting the future and reading "signs..."
10. When a mother is torn between her husband and her child...

Directions: On separate paper, write a brief answer to each study question. Use your completed study guide later in class discussion and to study for the quiz and test.

Pages 1-13

1. Why have the priests come to the altar at Thebes?
2. How did Oedipus once liberate Thebes?
3. Why is Creon away from Thebes when the story opens?
4. According to Creon, what does Apollo want done?
5. How was Laius killed?
6. Why wasn't the death of the king fully investigated?
7. Who are the members of the chorus supposed to be?
8. Briefly summarize the prayer made by the first chorus (pages 11-13).

Prediction: Why will Oedipus grow angry with Creon?

Pages 14-27

9. What "reward" does Oedipus offer for information about the murderer?
10. What punishment does Oedipus threaten for withholding information about the murderer?
11. Why has Oedipus sent for Tiresias?
12. Why didn't Tiresias come immediately when Oedipus sent for him?
13. Why does Oedipus first grow angry with Tiresias (p. 21)?
14. Why does Tiresias grow angry with Oedipus?
15. What accusation does Tiresias make against Oedipus?
16. Why does Oedipus grow angry with Creon?

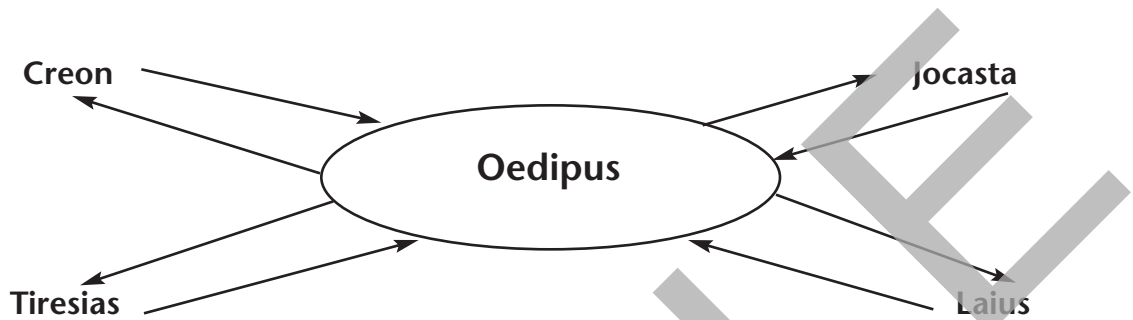
Prediction: What will Oedipus say to Creon?

Pages 28-41

17. What prediction does Tiresias make?
18. How do the people feel about the accusations Tiresias and Oedipus are making (chorus, pp. 31-32)?
19. What does Oedipus think that Creon is plotting?

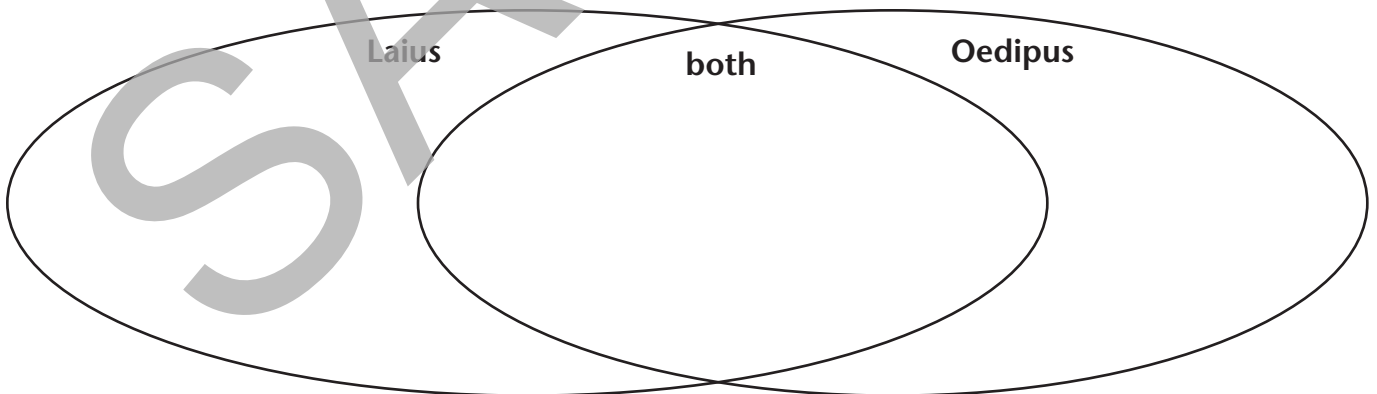
Name _____

Directions: (A) In small group talk about the relationships between the characters below. Label each arrow with a brief description of the relationship.



(B) Write an essay analyzing one of the relationships you have discussed. How do the two get along? What is the history of their relationship? What contributes to tensions between these two? jealousy? revenge? pride? different principles? Does the nature of the relationship change during the course of the play?

(C) Laius is dead when the story begins, but we learn about him through characters' comments in *Oedipus the King*. Compare and contrast Oedipus and Laius in class discussion. How are they similar and how are they different? in temperament? in their relationship with Jocasta? with the people they rule? with their offspring? in their motivations? Fill in the Venn diagram, below.



Name _____

Oedipus the King
Activity #10: Critical/Creative Thinking
Use After Reading

Directions: Many of the characters and events in *Oedipus the King* have modern-day counterparts—in life, fiction, or art. In the chart below, briefly list and explain links between themes in *Oedipus the King* and in the present-day world.

For instance, do you see a similarity between Sophocles' Chorus and today's media? Does the tragedy of Oedipus—whose search for the "truth" of his birth ends on a dark note—remind you of any recent movies you have seen or songs you have heard? (If you're feeling creative, draw a cartoon that captures the Oedipus-like nature of the present-day situation.)

<i>Oedipus the King</i>	Present-day Situation	Brief Explanation of the Similarity
"chorus"		
adoptee's search for real parents		
attempt to kill a child to protect self		
a "seer" who is disbelieved		
a wife old enough to be her husband's mother		
an incestuous situation		