

Oedipus Questions:

First Scene (pgs. 1 - 6)

1. This scene is filled with many instances of dramatic irony. List and explain two of these

Second Scene (pgs. 9 - 22)

1. Is Creon being admirable here?
2. Why should Oedipus have such a strange reaction to Jocasta's account of her lost child?

Second Stasimon (pgs. 17 - 19) or closing of the scene:□

1. The Chorus seems completely confused - are they following Tiresias or Oedipus?□□

Third Scene (pgs. 23 -32)□

1. Consider Jocasta's ongoing aspersion of oracles in the light of what is about to happen. At what point does she begin to suspect the truth?
2. Why does Oedipus remain ignorant?

Fourth Scene (pgs. 32 - 39)□

1. Aristotle believed Oedipus Rex to be the finest of all tragedies because the protagonist's recognition of the truth coincides with the reversal of his fortunes. Where exactly does this occur?

Fifth Scene (pgs 40 – 46)

1. What was Oedipus trying to do when he found his mother/wife dead? Is blinding an appropriate (self) punishment?

Sixth Scene and Exodus (pgs 46 - end)

1. Does anything surprise you about the way Oedipus views disaster in this scene?
2. Is Creon fair to Oedipus?
3. Why do Oedipus' daughter remain so special to him? What effect does blindness have on Oedipus' wisdom?□□

After the students read:

1. Return now to the theme of fate which is central to this play (and indeed, all Greek drama). Discuss the social attitudes that identify the ancient Greeks. What are the Greeks concerned about in this play? How did they feel about prophesy, priests, the gods, and fate?
2. How did pride (hubris) and arrogance affect Oedipus' fate? What in his personality brought about his fate when others tried to turn him away from it?□□