

# *Oedipus the King* Reading Questions

1. What are your first impressions of Oedipus as a person and ruler?
2. Oedipus's kingdom, Thebes, is beset by the plague and agricultural decline—"crises". What does this predict for the characters during the remainder of the play, do you think?
3. What does Oedipus hope to gain by sending his wife's brother, Creon, to pray to the oracle at Delphi?
6. Why does Teiresias initially refrain from divulging the truth to Oedipus and assembled others?
7. What is Oedipus's response to Teiresias's refusal, and then later, to his accusations?
8. Describe the relationship between Creon and Oedipus. Is it healthy? Do they get along?
9. Why did Oedipus leave his homeland?
10. Briefly explain **how** and **why** Laius was killed.

11. Who is Polybus and why is he important?
  
12. How does Jocasta react to the revelation that Oedipus is her son?
  
13. Oedipus calls himself an “abomination” for killing his father and marrying his mother. If he was aware of neither, why does he call himself evil? Is a man responsible for the evil of his actions if he is truly unaware that they are evil?
  
14. What role does fate play in *Oedipus the King*? How does it affect events?
  
15. The Greeks invented drama. In this play, what are some examples of dramatic or “over-the-top” behavior? (Give at least three.)
  
16. What are some themes of the story? (Don’t just give **one** word answers; themes require a few words to correctly explain)