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Oedipus Study Guide

***Oedipus* Questions- pgs 204-223**

*1. Lines 1-6*: What mood is created at the beginning of they play? Cite a line from lines 1-6 to support your answer.

*2. Lines 35-59:* What qualities or personality traits in Oedipus does the Priest single out as Oedipus’s special virtues?

3. *Line 72:* What epithet is given for Creon? What is Delphi?

4. *Lines 93-*96:These two short speeches about where to hold a discussion suggest a contrast between Oedipus’s and Creon’s attitudes towards the people. What is the contrast?

5. *Lines 96-108:* According to Creon, what is the cause of the troubles in Thebes?

6. *Lines 109-110:* What is dramatically ironic about Oedipus’s line here?

7. *Lines 125-*128:What difference exists between Creon and Oedipus’s account of attackers?

8. *Lines 170-171:* The *Chorus* says that Apollo saved the city of Thebes once before. To what previous crisis do you think they are alluding?

9. *Lines 207-*208:What is unintentionally ironic about Oedipus’s statement here?

10. *Lines 232-*237: How does Sophocles deepen the irony of Oedipus’s curse in these lines?

11. *Lines 244-246:* What does Oedipus not realize about his interactions with his “wife” and “children” here?

12. *Lines 287-333:* What literary effect did Sophocles create in this long speech? Explain.

13. *Line 364*: Why should Oedipus suddenly connect Creon with Teiresias here? Look back at line 275 for a clue.

14. *Line 383*:How is this line spoken by Oedipus unintentionally ironic?”

15. *Line 455*: To whom does the Chorus allude to when they mention “the son of Zues”? Why is this person/entity important?

16. *Line 484*: Why *does* the Chorus refuse to believe Teiresias’s accusations against Oedipus?

17. *Lines 486-487:* What accusations does Creon refer to here?

***Oedipus Questions- pgs. 224-243***

*18. Lines 550-570:* What is Creon’s argument in these lines? Does it seem to be a logical or faulty argument? Why?

19*. Lines 590-591*: What punishment does Oedipus want for Creon? What crime does Oedipus think Creon committed?

20. *Lines 617-618*: What two reasons does the Choragos give Oedipus for respecting Creon’s word?

21. *Lines 637-638*: Based on the portrait of Oedipus so far in the play, how valid do you think Creon’s judgment of Oedipus’s nature is?

22. *Lines 642-644*: Sophocles portrays Jocasta as influential with her husband, with Creon, and with the Thebans. What do these questions imply about her character?

23. *Lines 688- 704*: What might Oedipus begin to suspect as he starts to question Jocasta more carefully?

24. *Lines 726-772*: What information does Oedipus reveal in this lengthy flashback?

25. *Lines 750-759*: Why does Oedipus say he fled from Corinth?

26. *Lines 876-878*: Explain Jocasta’s simile here. Who is being compared to whom?

27. *Lines 884-885*: Why is the messenger’s greeting to Jocasta ironic?

28. *Lines 899- 904*: What conclusion does Jocasta draw from the messenger’s news?

29. *Lines 915-920*: In what way is Oedipus’s joyful outburst an example of dramatic irony?

30. *Lines 928- 930*: According to Jocasta, why should Oedipus not fear?

31*. Lines 958-962*: In what way does this exchange between Oedipus and the messenger create suspense?

32. *Lines 957-971*: What do you imagine is Oedipus’s emotional state at this point? Why?

33. *Line 975*: What situational irony does this exchange create?

***Oedipus Rex* Questions: pp.244-262**

34. *Lines 991-1003:* Why does Oedipus want to talk to the shepherd?

35. *Lines 1004-1013*: Why does Jocasta wish Oedipus to stop his questioning?

36. *Lines 1024-1027* : What metaphors does Oedipus use to describe his parentage and family relationships?

37. *Lines 1041- 1051*: Who does the Chorus fantasize might be Oedipus’s father?

38. *Lines 1060- 1083*: What does the shepherd relate of his past to Oedipus? Who did he work for? Where did he work?

39. *Lines 1093***:** What part did the shepherd play in the events relating to the child of Laius?

40. *Lines 1105- 1111:*  Who does Oedipus describe as an “unspeakable mother”?

41. *Lines 1114- 1124* What realization does Oedipus come to by the end of the Shepherd’s speech?

42. *Lines 1177- 1200:*  What sad event does the Second Messenger relate to Choragos? Describe how this event happened in detail.

43. *Line 1201:* What does the following line mean, “A husband by her husband, children by her child”?

44. *Lines 1202- 1236:* What does Oedipus do as a result of Jocasta’s actions? Describe the event in detail.

45. *Lines 1237-1246:* What pronouncement has Oedipus made?

46. *Lines 1315-1360* : Summarize what Oedipus says about his life and his plans for the future?

47. *Lines 1396- 1410***:** What does Oedipus request of Creon?

48. *Lines 1426-1440* **:** Why is Oedipus convinced that his daughters’ futures will be all suffering? Why must they pay for his sins?

49. *Lines 1464-1466*: Did Oedipus indeed serve his “own destruction,” as Creon says? What statement best captures the theme of this play?

50. *Lines 1467-1475*: What moral lesson does the Chorus draw from the action in the play?

**\*\* I attest that I completed this study guide on my own. When I talked to my group/partners about questions, I wrote my own responses. I understand that plagiarism of my responses from other students or the internet will result in a zero for all parties involved in the cheating.**

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