

Study Guide for Sophocles's *Oedipus the King*

1. At the beginning of the play, what problem is facing the city of Thebes?
2. From whom did Oedipus free the Thebans?
3. As the play opens, what has Oedipus sent Creon to do?
4. What/who is it that "Lord Phoebus" wants the people of Thebes to drive out?
5. Who was the former king of Thebes prior to Oedipus' arrival?
6. Whom does the Chorus advise Oedipus to consult when they are unable to discover the killer of Laius?
7. In what way is Teiresias physically challenged?
8. Of what does Oedipus accuse Teiresias?
9. According to Teiresias, who is "the godless defiler of this land"?
10. What skill does Oedipus have that he is proud of?
11. Of what does Oedipus accuse Creon?
12. In what two ways is Creon related to Oedipus?
13. According to Jocasta, an oracle once came to Laius that his fate would be what? What did Laius do when he learned his fate?
14. Who did Oedipus wrongly think his parents were? Who were his real parents?
15. What caused Oedipus to suspect that the man he thought was his father was not his father?
16. What, according to Apollo, was Oedipus fated to do?
17. Where and what were the details of Oedipus' killing of Laius?
18. According to Jocasta, who killed Laius?
19. How did Oedipus become the foster son of Polybus?
20. In what way is Oedipus physically challenged?
21. How does Jocasta die?
22. What did Oedipus do with pins from Jocasta's clothes?