

Class (open) discussion questions.

Instructions:

Please read these questions most thoroughly and be fully prepared to give answers to at least two of the questions.

Question 5 should be selected by as many members of the class as possible.

1. An ancient scholar (Aristotle) applied the line "Pride breeds the tyrant" to Jocasta. Was he justified in doing this? Are there other interpretations possible? In view of the Greek title Oedipus Tyrannas, in what sense could we apply the line to Oedipus himself?
2. Oedipus' view of himself changes through the play. and his mood also changes. Describe how these two changes are related. Are they always related in the same way?
3. The chorus, as representative citizens of Thebes stand, as elders, for the mature view of a majority. Analyse and discuss their final view. Is it reflected in the views of any of the characters?
4. At the climax of the play, slaves move to the fore and become crucial to the action. Discuss the conclusions that might be drawn from this fact.
5. Concerning the myth:--
 - a) What parts of the Oedipus myth did Sophocles select?
 - b) What parts did he leave out?
 - c) What reasons might be given for his beginning Oedipus Rex at the particular point of the myth he chose?
 - d) In what ways does the myth--a traditional story with primitive roots - add to the play what an ordinary story would not?
 - e) What reasons would you now hold for a study of mythology, as a result of your work with Sophocles Oedipus' Rex.