

Oedipus Rex Key Quotations

****Use these quotations for evidence in your Informative Essay (Oedipus as a Tragic Hero). When you copy and paste them, delete the part that says who is speaking. KEEP the Parenthetical Citations with the line numbers. You must have these citations for your paper!****

Part One

1. “My children, I have come myself to hear you- tell me what preys upon you. Tell me and never doubt that I will help you in every way I can.” Oedipus to the people of Thebes (*Oedipus* 1. 1-5)
2. “A rust consumes the buds and fruits of the earth; the herds are sick, children die unborn. We have come to you to make our prayer. You saved us from the Sphinx. Therefore, o mighty King, we turn to you. Find us our safety. Find us a remedy.” The Priest to Oedipus(*Oedipus* 1. 26-31)
3. “Whoever killed king Laius might-who knows?- decide at any moment to kill me as well.” Oedipus to himself. (*Oedipus* 1. 140-145)
4. “If any man knows by whose hand Laius met his death, I direct that man to tell me everything.” Oedipus to citizens of Thebes. (*Oedipus* 1. 210-220)
5. “You planned it, you had it done. If you had eyes, I’d say the crime was yours.” Oedipus to Teiresias. (*Oedipus* 1. 330-335)
6. “I say that you are the murderer whom you seek.” Teiresias to Oedipus. (*Oedipus* 1. 350)
7. “You mock my blindness, do you? But I say that you, with both your eyes are blind; you cannot see the wretchedness of your life, nor in whose house you live. Who are your father and mother? Can you tell me? You do not even know the blind wrongs that you have done them.” Teiresias to Oedipus. (*Oedipus* 1. 398-402)
8. “A blind man, who has his eyes now; a penniless man, who is rich now; and he will go tapping the strange earth with his staff. To the children with whom he lives now he will be brother and father. To her who bore him, son and husband.” Teiresias to Oedipus (*Oedipus* 1. 438-450)
9. “How brazen of you to come to my house, you murderer! Do you think I do not know that you plotted to kill me, plotted to steal my throne?” Oedipus to Creon (*Oedipus* 1. 500-515)
10. “If I am found guilty of treason with Teiresias then sentence me to death!” Creon to Oedipus (*Oedipus* 1. 570-580)
11. “This is well said, and a prudent man would ponder it. Judgments too quickly formed are dangerous.” Choragos to Oedipus (*Oedipus* 1. 583-584)
12. “He was tall, his hair just touched white, his form was not unlike your own.” Jocasta to Oedipus regarding what King Laius looked like. (*Oedipus* 1. 798-799)
13. “A strange thing happened, at a feast a drunken man cries out that I am not my father’s son.” Oedipus to Jocasta (*Oedipus* 1. 735)
14. “There were three highways coming together at a place I passed. A chariot, drawn by horses forced me off the road at his lord’s command. But as this charioteer lurched over towards me I struck him in my rage. The old man saw me and brought his double goad upon my head. Swinging my club I knocked him out of his car. I killed him. I killed them all.” Oedipus to Jocasta (*Oedipus* 1. 760-774)
15. “Suppose he alters some details of it: He cannot ever show that Laius’ death fulfilled the oracle; for Apollo said my child was doomed to kill him; and my child- poor baby!- it was my child that died first.” Jocasta to Oedipus (*Oedipus* 1. 808-811)

Part Two

16. “Our King is not himself; his noble soul is overwrought with fantasies of dread.” Jocasta praying to Apollo and asking that Oedipus will be “normal” again (*Oedipus* 2. 868-869)
17. “The word is that the people of the Isthmus intend to call Oedipus to be their king.” Messenger tells Jocasta that Oedipus can now be king of Corinth because Polybus died (*Oedipus* 2.895)
18. “I cannot say it more clearly:the King is dead.” Messenger to Jocasta and Oedipus announcing that King

Polybus is dead (*Oedipus* 2.911)

19. "Ah why should a man respect the Pythian hearth (Apollo's priestess). They prophesied that I should kill Polybus, kill my own father; but he is dead and buried, and I am here- I never touched him. No. Polybus has packed the oracles off with him underground. They are empty words." Oedipus to Jocasta and Messenger (*Oedipus* 2. 915-923)
20. "Have no more fear of sleeping with your mother; how many men, in dreams, have lain with their mothers!" Jocasta to Oedipus (*Oedipus* 2. 931-932)
21. "Polybus was not your father" Messenger to Oedipus (*Oedipus* 2. 964)
22. "I cut the bonds that tied your ankles together." Messenger to Oedipus (*Oedipus* 2. 978-979)
23. "Forget this herdsman. Forget it all. This talk is a waste of time." Jocasta to Oedipus (*Oedipus* 2. 1000-1003)
24. "Ah, miserable! That is the only word I have for you now. That is the only word I can ever have." Jocasta to Oedipus (*Oedipus* 2. 1016-1018)
25. "However base my birth, I must know about it. The Queen, like a woman, is perhaps ashamed to think of my low origin." Oedipus to Jocasta (*Oedipus* 2. 1023-1025)
26. "If you must be told, then...they said it was Laius' child; but it is your wife who can tell you about it." Shepherd to Oedipus (*Oedipus* 2. 1107-1110)
27. "I pitied the baby, my King, and I thought that this man would take him far away to his own country. He saved him- but for what a fate!" Servant to Oedipus. (*Oedipus* 2. 1115-1118)
28. "O Light, may I look on you for the last time! I, Oedipus, Oedipus, damned in his birth." Oedipus to audience (*Oedipus* 2. 1120-1125)
29. "Oh God. Again the pain of the spikes where I had sight, the flooding pain of memory never to be gouged out." Oedipus to audience (*Oedipus* 2. 1269-1271)
30. "This punishment that I have laid upon myself is just. If I had eyes, I do not know how I could bear the sight of my father, when I came to the house of Death, or my mother; for I have sinned against them both." Oedipus to audience (*Oedipus* 2. 1315-1321)
31. "I have not come to mock you, Oedipus, or to reproach you, either." Creon to Oedipus (*Oedipus* 2. 1368-1369)
32. "Drive me out of this country as quickly as may be to a place where no human voice can ever greet me." Oedipus to Creon. (*Oedipus* 2. 1382-1383)
33. "Can you ever marry? There are no bridegrooms for you, and your lives must wither away in sterile dreaming." Oedipus to Antigone and Ismene. (*Oedipus* 2. 1441-1443)
34. "You are the only father my daughters have, since we, their parents, are both of us gone forever. They are your own blood; you will not let them fall into beggary and loneliness." Oedipus to Creon (*Oedipus* 2. 1444-1448)
35. "Think no longer that you are in command here but rather think how when you were, you served your own destruction." Creon to Oedipus (*Oedipus* 2. 1464-1466)
36. "This is the king who solved the famous riddle and towered up, most powerful of men. No mortal eyes but looked on him with envy, yet in the end ruin swept over him." Chorus to audience (*Oedipus* 2. 1468-1470)