

Freshman English CP / Honors

Kim / Nolan

Oedipus Reader's Guide 02: Lines 339-750

Name: _____

Block: _____

Date: _____

Question Corrale

[]

[376-420] Oedipus and Tiresias have an argument: "You cannot imagine... I tell you, / you and your loved ones live together in infamy, / you cannot see how far you've gone in guilt" (417-419). What are Oedipus and Tiresias arguing about, and why has Tiresias become upset?

[450-454] Notice how Oedipus separates himself from others in his counsel.

[470] Tiresias continues to argue with Oedipus, moving to insult him out of anger: "You with your precious eyes, / You're blind to the corruption of your life" (470-471). What could be the deeper meaning here? What do you think he is really trying to say to Oedipus?

[473-478] Extending the attack, Tiresias begins to seemingly insult everything about Oedipus. What questions does Tiresias bring up about Oedipus knowledge of his family?

[498-499] Oedipus and Tiresias continue in a heated argument: “Parents - who? Wait...who is my father?” (498). Why do you think Oedipus’s tone change here, from one of anger to one of curiosity? What does this exchange reveal to us as readers?

[594] *gall* (noun) - bold, impudent/disrespectful behavior

[620] *sanctimonious* (adjective) - making a show of being morally superior to other people

[654-656] After Tiresias leaves, Oedipus accuses Creon of intentionally trying to make Oedipus look bad by bringing him there. Creon makes an interesting point to counter argue against Oedipus’s accusations: “who in his right mind would rather rule / and live in anxiety than sleep in peace? / Particularly if he enjoys the same authority” (654-656). What point is Creon making here? How is he defending himself against Oedipus’s accusations?

[727] *concessions* (noun) - the action of conceding, granting, or giving up something

[733] *bearsay* (noun) - information received from other people that one cannot adequately prove; rumor

[746-748] Justice is mentioned several times throughout Creon’s remarks towards Oedipus: “Look at you, sullen in yielding, brutal in your rage - / you will go too far. It’s perfect justice: natures like yours are hardest on themselves” (746-748). What wisdom is Creon sharing here about justice? Explain in your own words.