

### **Oedipus the King**

Note: Looking up each character on the Perseus site is of enormous help to answering these questions. It is located at <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu>.

1. Before you begin to read, construct a family tree for the Atreus line.
2. Construct a timeline for the play. Why do the plot and the timeline differ?
3. What issues raised in the play are not of relevance to us today? What does the play suggest about the concerns of Sophocles' audience?
4. What issues raised in the play are just as relevant to people now as they were then?
5. What are the characters like (Oedipus, Creon, Tiresias, Chorus, Jocasta)? To what extent do their characters direct what happens? To what extent is fate or destiny involved?
6. What is Tiresias' role in the play? In the lives of other people?
7. How does the word "blind" function in the play? Find at least five uses of the word "blind" and analyze them.
8. What is the significance of Oedipus' act of self-injury at the end of the play?