

Annotation
Pre-AP English II
Oedipus Rex

Annotation: **Quiz grade—Due August 24/25**
Reading Check Quiz: **Quiz grade—August 24/25**

Oedipus Rex is essentially a detective story as two central mysteries shape the action and course of the play. However, even though it is a detective story, the Greek audience would have been familiar with the story and the events surrounding it. **Before reading *Oedipus*, you must read Edith Hamilton's "Royal House of Thebes"** (in *Mythology*), which will help establish some of the significant elements of the play.

1. Circle or highlight words that are unfamiliar or unusual. Any other **vocabulary word that you do not know should be highlighted, and you need to look up the meaning of the word.** There are several terms used in the first couple of scenes that reveal the state of the city.
2. When new characters are introduced, highlight phrases that describe them.
3. Throughout the play, "sight" and "blindness" are used in both a literal and figurative sense. Highlight each mention of both sight and blindness and make note of the relationship between sight and spiritual blindness.
4. Highlight each reference to the king as captain of the ship of the state.
5. Make note of every instance of Oedipus' rage or anger. Oedipus' hot-temperedness exacerbates his spiritual blindness and reveals his *hubris*: Oedipus believes that he can overcome fate and the work of the gods. Oedipus' *hubris* is inherited from Laius as he believes he, too, can go above the will of the gods. In the margin, make note of Laius's sins and each reference to Oedipus' inheritance of the sins of his father.
6. If you have a question about something in the book, write it on the page when it first occurs to you. When you get an idea while reading the text, note it in a brief form in the margin. You may never think of this idea again unless you write it down.
7. **Use brackets, checks, stars, bullets, or asterisks to mark very important items or detail you want to return to later. Then in the front of the book record the symbol you used and write the page numbers that have that symbol.**
8. Don't mark too much. If you mark everything, nothing will stand out.