

Oedipus Rex

Study Guide by Course Hero



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Book Basics

AUTHOR

Sophocles

FIRST PERFORMED

c. 430-426 BCE

GENRE

Tragedy

PERSPECTIVE AND NARRATOR

In this typical Greek tragedy, a chorus introduces and comments on the story in Oedipus Rex and converses with the characters.

ABOUT THE TITLE

Oedipus Rex is Latin and means "Oedipus the King," which is the title of later translations of the play.

In Context

Culture and Society in Ancient Greece

At the time Sophocles was alive, Greece was split into poleis, or city-states. These states were walled cities that included the countryside around them for the purposes of government, economy, military organization, and participation in community life. Athens was one of the major city-states. It is in Athens that Sophocles became an extremely active citizen in politics and the military. All citizens were part of the military at some point in their lives. They were also part of committees that ran the government, establishing the beginnings of a democratic society.

Women, children, and slaves were not considered citizens. They were, therefore, not allowed to participate in Athenian public life. The female character in Oedipus Rex, however, holds a fair amount of power. Jocasta is central to the plot in that she plans the murder of her own child to avoid her fate. She, along with the Chorus, is also able to stop Oedipus from being unreasonable with Creon and tries to protect Oedipus from knowledge of his fate. When these attempts fail, she takes her own life. Antigone and Ismene, Oedipus's daughters, are taken away from him in Oedipus Rex. However, in a later play. Oedipus at Colonus, they are the two of his four children who act on the principle of kindness, duty, and care for their father in his blindness and self-imposed banishment. In addition, although women had no power in Athens, two of Sophocles's plays, Electra and Antigone, focus on stories with

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DRAMA FOR STUDENTS Cengage Learning Gale, 2016 A Study Guide for Sophocles's "Oedipus Rex (aka Oedipus the King)" Gale, Cengage Learning, A Study Guide for Sophocles s Oedipus Rex aka Oedipus the King excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Drama For Students This concise study guide includes plot summary character analysis author biography study questions historical context suggestions for further reading and much more For any literature project trust Drama For Students for all of your research needs A Study Guide for Sophocles's "Oedipus Rex (aka Oedipus the **King)**" Cengage Learning Gale, 2017-07-25 A Study Guide for Sophocles's Oedipus Rex aka Oedipus the King excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Drama For Students This concise study guide includes plot summary character analysis author biography study questions historical context suggestions for further reading and much more For any literature project trust Drama For Students for all of your research needs A study guide for Eugene O'Neill's "Desire Under the Elms" Gale, Cengage Learning, 2015-03-13 A study guide for Eugene O Neill's Desire Under the Elms excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Drama for Students series This concise study guide includes plot summary character analysis author biography study questions historical context suggestions for further reading and much more For any literature project trust Drama for Students for all of your research needs Pennant Key-indexed Study Guide to Oedipus Rex and Other Plays Melvin Hill, 1966 **Guide to Periodical Literature** .1923 Pennant Key-indexed Study Guide to Sophocles's Oedipus Rex and Other Plays How to Write a Killer Essay: A Streetcar named Desire Becky Czlapinski, 2023-06-23 Do you feel a Melvin Hill, 1966 bit overwhelmed with the assignment you have related to Tennessee William's A Streetcar Named Desire This guide will help place the play in context and shed light on the many motifs and themes of the play You will be provided with a detailed scene by scene summary and analysis as well as step by step instruction on how to write a great essay Cataloa of Copyriaht Entries. Third Series Library of Congress. Copyright Office, 1965 Includes Part 1 Number 2 Books and Pamphlets Including Serials and Contributions to Periodicals July December True Detective Michael Samuel, Scott F. Stoddart, 2017-12-06 Throughout its limited run beginning in 2014 the HBO series True Detective has presented viewers with unique takes on the American crime drama on television marked by literary and cinematic influences heavyweight performances and an experimental approach to the genre At times celebrated and opposed the series has ignited a range of ongoing critical conversations about representations of gender depictions of place and narrative forms True Detective Critical Essays on the HBO Series includes a breadth of scholarly chapters that cross disciplinary boundaries interrogate a range of topics and ultimately promise to further contribute to critical debates surrounding the series **Pennant Key-indexed Study Guide** to Sophocles' "Oedipus Rex" and Other Plays Melvin Hill, 1966 **Oedipus Rex by Sophocles** Ray Moore, M.a., Ray Moore M a, 2015-09-26 This Study Guide puts into context this first play in the trilogy Oedipus Rex Oedipus at Colonus and Antigone by Sophocles The informative guide supplies a clear original account of the back story the Myth of Oedipus a

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