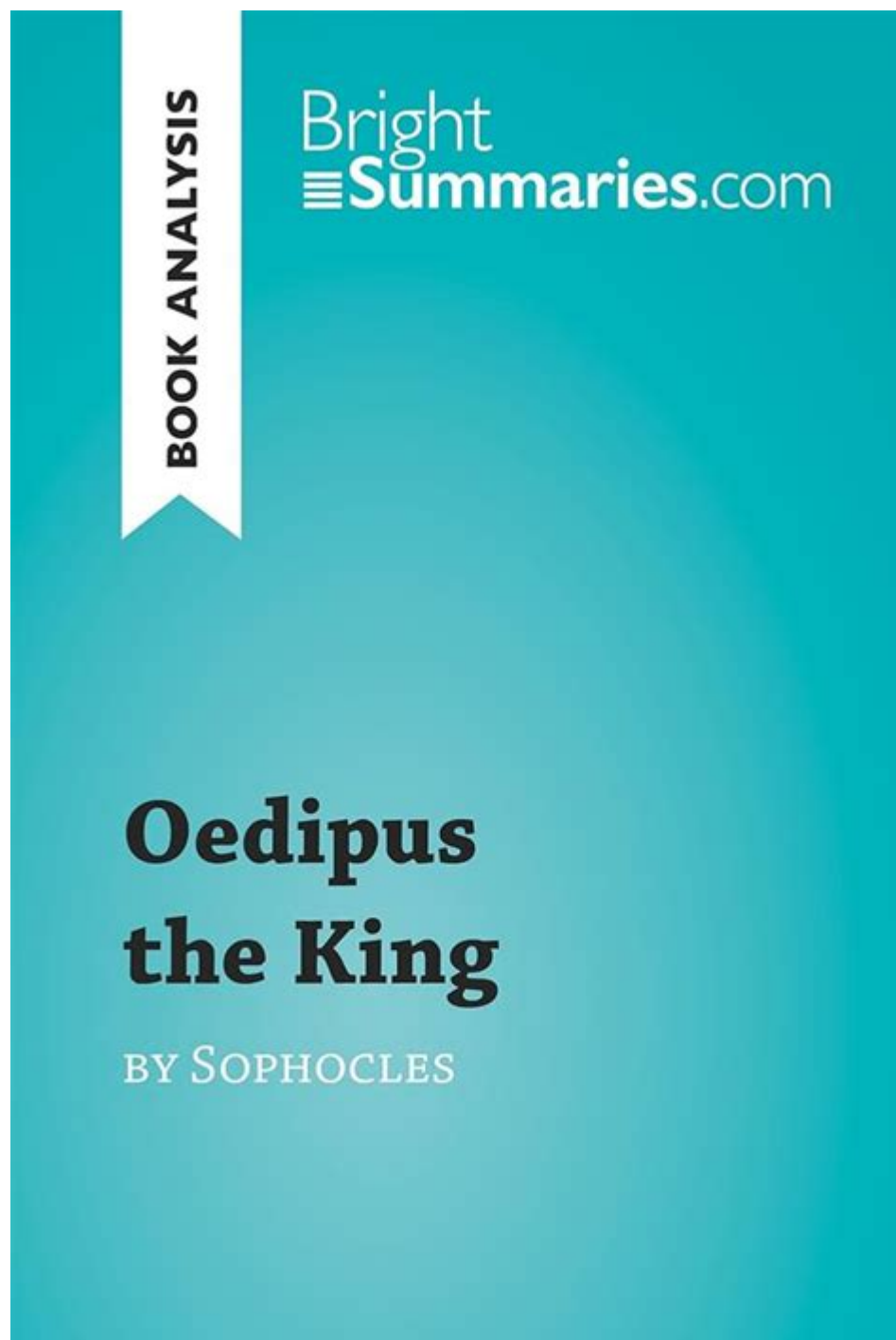


Oedipus The King Sparknotes



Oedipus the King SparkNotes: A Comprehensive Guide to Sophocles' Tragedy

Are you facing a daunting encounter with Sophocles' Oedipus Rex? Dreading the dense language and complex themes? Fear not! This comprehensive guide provides a thorough yet accessible

Oedipus the King SparkNotes style summary, covering the plot, characters, key themes, and dramatic irony that make this ancient Greek tragedy a timeless masterpiece. We'll unpack the complexities, offering you a clear understanding to help you ace your next essay or simply appreciate this remarkable play. This isn't just a plot summary; it's a deep dive into the heart of Sophocles' masterpiece.

The Plot of Oedipus Rex: A Quick Summary

Sophocles' Oedipus Rex, also known as Oedipus the King, plunges us into the turmoil of Thebes, a city plagued by a devastating plague. Oedipus, the seemingly noble king, vows to find the source of this affliction. Through the prophet Tiresias, the terrible truth is revealed: the plague is a divine punishment for the murder of Laius, the former king, a crime Oedipus himself unknowingly committed years ago.

The Unraveling of Fate: Key Events

The Prophecy: Oedipus's life is governed by a prophecy foretelling he would kill his father and marry his mother. He attempts to escape this fate by leaving his supposed parents.

The Murder of Laius: While fleeing, Oedipus encounters and kills a group of travelers, unknowingly slaying his biological father, Laius.

The Sphinx and the Riddle: Oedipus solves the Sphinx's riddle, saving Thebes and becoming its king, marrying the widowed Queen Jocasta.

The Revelation: Through a series of clues and increasingly desperate investigations, the horrifying truth of Oedipus's actions is revealed.

The Catastrophe: Overwhelmed by the weight of his actions and the realization of his incestuous marriage, Jocasta takes her own life, and Oedipus blinds himself, banishing himself from Thebes.

Key Characters in Oedipus the King

Understanding the characters is crucial to grasping the play's profound themes.

Oedipus: The Tragic Hero

Oedipus is the quintessential tragic hero. He is powerful, intelligent, and driven by a desire to do good, yet his actions, fueled by an inescapable fate, lead to his downfall. His unwavering pride (hubris) ultimately blinds him, both literally and figuratively.

Jocasta: The Queen with a Secret

Jocasta, Oedipus' wife and mother, embodies the tragic consequences of fate and the devastating power of secrets. Her attempts to shield Oedipus from the truth ultimately contribute to the tragedy.

Tiresias: The Blind Seer

Tiresias, the blind prophet, serves as a pivotal figure, revealing the truth to Oedipus gradually, despite the king's initial resistance. His blindness ironically represents Oedipus's own impending blindness to the truth.

Creon: The Loyal Relative

Creon, Jocasta's brother, acts as a voice of reason and attempts to mediate the conflict, ultimately showcasing a more practical and less emotionally driven approach to leadership than Oedipus.

Exploring the Major Themes

Oedipus the King is rich in themes that resonate across centuries.

Fate vs. Free Will: The Age-Old Question

The play explores the clash between fate, as represented by the prophecy, and free will, as Oedipus actively tries to avoid his predetermined destiny. Did Oedipus have any agency, or was he merely a pawn of fate?

Hubris and the Downfall of Pride

Oedipus's excessive pride and confidence (hubris) ultimately leads to his downfall. His refusal to accept the truth and his initial dismissal of Tiresias highlight this crucial flaw.

The Nature of Justice and Divine Retribution

The plague that ravages Thebes serves as a clear example of divine retribution for Laius's murder. The play raises questions about the nature of justice and the consequences of unchecked power.

Sight and Blindness: A Powerful Metaphor

The play uses the motif of sight and blindness extensively. Oedipus's physical blinding at the end symbolizes his sudden understanding of the horrifying truth, a truth he was previously blind to.

Dramatic Irony: The Core of the Tragedy

Sophocles masterfully employs dramatic irony, where the audience knows something the characters don't. We are aware of Oedipus's true parentage and his unwitting crimes, creating a palpable sense of suspense and tragedy as the truth gradually unfolds. This heightened awareness of the inevitable outcome intensifies the emotional impact of the play.

Conclusion

Oedipus the King remains a powerful and relevant exploration of fate, free will, justice, and the human condition. Understanding the plot, characters, and themes, as outlined in this Oedipus the King SparkNotes style guide, will undoubtedly enhance your appreciation for this timeless masterpiece of Greek tragedy. This insightful summary helps you navigate the complexities of the play, enabling a more profound understanding of its enduring significance.

FAQs

1. What is the central conflict in Oedipus Rex? The central conflict is Oedipus's struggle against a predetermined fate and his own pride, which ultimately leads to his downfall and the revelation of his horrific actions.
2. How does Sophocles use dramatic irony in the play? Sophocles masterfully uses dramatic irony by letting the audience know the truth about Oedipus's parentage and his unwitting crimes long before Oedipus himself discovers it, creating suspense and highlighting the tragic irony of his situation.

3. What is the significance of Oedipus blinding himself? The self-blinding act symbolizes Oedipus's realization of his terrible deeds and his acceptance of the consequences of his actions. It's a symbolic act of self-punishment and a recognition of his moral blindness.
4. What is the role of the chorus in Oedipus Rex? The chorus acts as a narrator, commentator, and representative of the Theban people, offering reflections on the events unfolding and providing insights into the societal and emotional impact of the tragedy.
5. What are some of the key differences between the play and modern interpretations? Modern interpretations may explore different aspects of the themes—such as the psychological aspects of Oedipus's character or a more nuanced view of fate versus free will—while some adaptations might also alter the ending or explore different perspectives on the characters' motivations.

oedipus the king sparknotes: Oedipus the King Sophocles, 2015-08-09 This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work was reproduced from the original artifact, and remains as true to the original work as possible. Therefore, you will see the original copyright references, library stamps (as most of these works have been housed in our most important libraries around the world), and other notations in the work. This work is in the public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. As a reproduction of a historical artifact, this work may contain missing or blurred pages, poor pictures, errant marks, etc. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.

oedipus the king sparknotes: Oedipus at Colonus Sophocles, 2020-05-05 The ancient Greek tragedy about the exiled king's final days—and the power struggle between his two sons. The second book in the trilogy that begins with Oedipus Rex and concludes with Antigone, Oedipus at Colonus is the story of an aged and blinded Oedipus anticipating his death as foretold by an earlier prophecy. Accompanied by his daughters, Antigone and Ismene, he takes up residence in the village of Colonus near Athens—where the locals fear his very presence will curse them. Nonetheless they allow him to stay, and Ismene informs him his sons are battling each other for the throne of Thebes. An oracle has pronounced that the location of their disgraced father's final resting place will determine which of them is to prevail. Unfortunately, an old enemy has his own plans for the burial, in this heart-wrenching play about two generations plagued by misfortune from the world's great ancient Greek tragedian.

oedipus the king sparknotes: Plays of Sophocles: Oedipus The King; Oedipus At Colonus; Antigone Sophocles, 2021-01-01 To Laius, King of Thebes, an oracle foretold that the child born to him by his queen Jocasta would slay his father and wed his mother. So when in time a son was born the infant's feet were riveted together and he was left to die on Mount Cithaeron. But a shepherd found the babe and tended him, and delivered him to another shepherd who took him to his master, the King of Corinth. Polybus being childless adopted the boy, who grew up believing that he was indeed the King's son. Afterwards doubting his parentage he inquired of the Delphic god and heard himself the word declared before to Laius. -Preface

oedipus the king sparknotes: Oedipus Rex Or Oedipus the King: (annotated) (Worldwide Classics) Sophocles, 2019-03-13 Oedipus, King of Thebes, sends his brother-in-law, Creon, to ask advice of the oracle at Delphi, concerning a plague ravaging Thebes. Creon returns to report that the plague is the result of religious pollution, since the murderer of their former king, Laius, has never been caught. Oedipus vows to find the murderer and curses him for causing the plague. Oedipus summons the blind prophet Tiresias for help. When Tiresias arrives he claims to

know the answers to Oedipus's questions, but refuses to speak, instead telling him to abandon his search. Oedipus is enraged by Tiresias' refusal, and verbally accuses him of complicity in Laius' murder. Outraged, Tiresias tells the king that Oedipus himself is the murderer (You yourself are the criminal you seek). Oedipus cannot see how this could be, and concludes that the prophet must have been paid off by Creon in an attempt to undermine him. The two argue vehemently, as Oedipus mocks Tiresias' lack of sight, and Tiresias in turn tells Oedipus that he himself is blind. Eventually Tiresias leaves, muttering darkly that when the murderer is discovered he shall be a native citizen of Thebes, brother and father to his own children, and son and husband to his own mother.

oedipus the king sparknotes: *Antigone* Sophocles, 1966 The Pearson Education Library Collection offers you over 1200 fiction, nonfiction, classic, adapted classic, illustrated classic, short stories, biographies, special anthologies, atlases, visual dictionaries, history trade, animal, sports titles and more

oedipus the king sparknotes: How to Read Literature Like a Professor 3E Thomas C. Foster, 2024-11-05 Thoroughly revised and expanded for a new generation of readers, this classic guide to enjoying literature to its fullest—a lively, enlightening, and entertaining introduction to a diverse range of writing and literary devices that enrich these works, including symbols, themes, and contexts—teaches you how to make your everyday reading experience richer and more rewarding. While books can be enjoyed for their basic stories, there are often deeper literary meanings beneath the surface. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* helps us to discover those hidden truths by looking at literature with the practiced analytical eye—and the literary codes—of a college professor. What does it mean when a protagonist is traveling along a dusty road? When he hands a drink to his companion? When he's drenched in a sudden rain shower? Thomas C. Foster provides answers to these questions as he explores every aspect of fiction, from major themes to literary models, narrative devices, and form. Offering a broad overview of literature—a world where a road leads to a quest, a shared meal may signify a communion, and rain, whether cleansing or destructive, is never just a shower—he shows us how to make our reading experience more intellectually satisfying and fun. The world, and curricula, have changed. This third edition has been thoroughly revised to reflect those changes, and features new chapters, a new preface and epilogue, as well as fresh teaching points Foster has developed over the past decade. Foster updates the books he discusses to include more diverse, inclusive, and modern works, such as Angie Thomas's *The Hate U Give*; Emily St. John Mandel's *Station Eleven*; Neil Gaiman's *Neverwhere*; Elizabeth Acevedo's *The Poet X*; Helen Oyeyemi's *Mr. Fox and Boy*, *Snow, Bird*; Sandra Cisneros's *The House on Mango Street*; Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*; Maggie O'Farrell's *Hamnet*; Madeline Miller's *Circe*; Pat Barker's *The Silence of the Girls*; and Tahereh Mafi's *A Very Large Expanse of Sea*.

oedipus the king sparknotes: *The Gospel at Colonus* Lee Breuer, 1993-01-01 A founding member of the acclaimed New York-based company Mabou Mines, Breuer's gifts as a writer and director have made him a mainstay of the theatrical avant-garde.

oedipus the king sparknotes: *The Burial at Thebes* Sophocles, 2014-01-13 Sophocles' play, first staged in the fifth century B.C., stands as a timely exploration of the conflict between those who affirm the individual's human rights and those who must protect the state's security. During the War of the Seven Against Thebes, Antigone, the daughter of Oedipus, learns that her brothers have killed each other, having been forced onto opposing sides of the battle. When Creon, king of Thebes, grants burial of one but not the treacherous other, Antigone defies his order, believing it her duty to bury all of her close kin. Enraged, Creon condemns her to death, and his soldiers wall her up in a tomb. While Creon eventually agrees to Antigone's release, it is too late: She takes her own life, initiating a tragic repetition of events in her family's history. In this outstanding new translation, commissioned by Ireland's renowned Abbey Theatre to commemorate its centenary, Seamus Heaney exposes the darkness and the humanity in Sophocles' masterpiece, and inks it with his own modern and masterly touch.

oedipus the king sparknotes: *The Children of Jocasta* Natalie Haynes, 2018-11-13 "[A] dark,

elegant novel” of two women in ancient Greece, based on the great tragedies of Sophocles (Publishers Weekly). Thebes is a city in mourning, still reeling from a devastating plague that invaded every home and left the survivors devastated and fearful. This is the Thebes that Jocasta has known her entire life, a city ruled by a king—her husband-to-be. Jocasta struggles through this miserable marriage until she is unexpectedly widowed. Now free to choose her next husband, she selects the handsome, youthful Oedipus. When whispers emerge of an unbearable scandal, the very society that once lent Jocasta its support seems determined to destroy her. Ismene is a girl in mourning, longing for the golden days of her youth, days spent lolling in the courtyard garden, reading and reveling in her parents’ happiness and love. Now she is an orphan and the target of a murder plot, attacked within the very walls of the palace. As the deadly political competition swirls around her, she must uncover the root of the plot—and reveal the truth of the curse that has consumed her family. The novel is based on Oedipus Tyrannus and Antigone, two of Classical Greece’s most compelling tragedies. Told in intersecting narratives, this reimagining of Sophocles’s classic plays brings life and voice to the women who were too often forced to the background of their own stories. “After two and a half millennia of near silence, Jocasta and Ismene are finally given a chance to speak . . . Haynes’s Thebes is vividly captured. In her excellent new novel, she harnesses the mutability of myth.” —The Guardian

oedipus the king sparknotes: Oedipus the King Sophocles, 1988-03-31 Dramatizes the story of Oedipus, who killed his father and married his mother.

oedipus the king sparknotes: Speed-the-plow David Mamet, 1989 Charlie Fox has a terrific vehicle for a hot male movie star, and he has brought it to his friend Bobby Gould, head of production for a major film company. Both see the script as a ticket to the really big table where the power is. The star wants to do it; all they have to do is pitch it to their boss in the morning. Meanwhile, Bobby bets Charlie that he can seduce the secretary temp. As a ruse, he has given her a novel by some Eastern sissy writer that he is supposed to read before saying thanks but no thanks. She is determined that the novel, not the trite vehicle, should be the company's next project. When she does sleep with Bobby, he finds the experience is so transmogrifying that Charlie must plead with Bobby not to pitch the sissy film. - Publisher's note.

oedipus the king sparknotes: Agamemnon Aeschylus, 2016-09-06 The sense of difficulty, and indeed of awe, with which a scholar approaches the task of translating the Agamemnon depends directly on its greatness as poetry. It is in part a matter of diction. The language of Aeschylus is an extraordinary thing, the syntax stiff and simple, the vocabulary obscure, unexpected, and steeped in splendour. Its peculiarities cannot be disregarded, or the translation will be false in character. Yet not Milton himself could produce in English the same great music, and a translator who should strive ambitiously to represent the complex effect of the original would clog his own powers of expression and strain his instrument to breaking. But, apart from the diction in this narrower sense, there is a quality of atmosphere surrounding the Agamemnon which seems almost to defy reproduction in another setting, because it depends in large measure on the position of the play in the historical development of Greek literature.

oedipus the king sparknotes: Antigone's Claim Judith Butler, 2002-05-23 The celebrated author of Gender Trouble here redefines Antigone's legacy, recovering her revolutionary significance and liberating it for a progressive feminism and sexual politics. Butler's new interpretation does nothing less than reconceptualize the incest taboo in relation to kinship—and open up the concept of kinship to cultural change. Antigone, the renowned insurgent from Sophocles's Oedipus, has long been a feminist icon of defiance. But what has remained unclear is whether she escapes from the forms of power that she opposes. Antigone proves to be a more ambivalent figure for feminism than has been acknowledged, since the form of defiance she exemplifies also leads to her death. Butler argues that Antigone represents a form of feminist and sexual agency that is fraught with risk. Moreover, Antigone shows how the constraints of normative kinship unfairly decide what will and will not be a livable life. Butler explores the meaning of Antigone, wondering what forms of kinship might have allowed her to live. Along the way, she

considers the works of such philosophers as Hegel, Lacan, and Irigaray. How, she asks, would psychoanalysis have been different if it had taken Antigone—the postoeidipal subject—rather than Oedipus as its point of departure? If the incest taboo is reconceived so that it does not mandate heterosexuality as its solution, what forms of sexual alliance and new kinship might be acknowledged as a result? The book relates the courageous deeds of Antigone to the claims made by those whose relations are still not honored as those of proper kinship, showing how a culture of normative heterosexuality obstructs our capacity to see what sexual freedom and political agency could be.

oedipus the king sparknotes: *River God* Wilbur Smith, 2014-07-01 Tanus is the fair-haired young lion of a warrior whom the gods have decreed will lead Egypt's army in a bold attempt to reunite the Kingdom's shattered halves. But Tanus will have to defy the same gods to attain the reward they have forbidden him, an object more prized than battle's glory: possession of the Lady Lostris, a rare beauty with skin the color of oiled cedar--destined for the adoration of a nation, and the love of one extraordinary man. International bestselling author Wilbur Smith, creator of over two dozen highly acclaimed novels, draws readers into a magnificent, richly imagined Egyptian saga. Exploding with all the drama, mystery, and rage of ancient Egypt, *River God* is a masterpiece from a storyteller at the height of his powers.

oedipus the king sparknotes: *Things Hidden Since the Foundation of the World* René Girard, Jean-Michel Oughourlian, Guy Lefort, 2003-01-01 Presenting an original global theory of culture, Girard explores the social function of violence and the mechanism of the social scapegoat. His vision is a challenge to conventional views of literature, anthropology, religion and psychoanalysis. René Girard is the Andrew B. Hammond Professor Emeritus of French Language, Literature and Civilization at Stanford University, USA.

oedipus the king sparknotes: *Sons and Lovers* D.H. Lawrence, 1913

oedipus the king sparknotes: *Antigone, Interrupted* Bonnie Honig, 2013-05-02 Sophocles' *Antigone* is a touchstone in democratic, feminist and legal theory, and possibly the most commented upon play in the history of philosophy and political theory. Bonnie Honig's rereading of it therefore involves intervening in a host of literatures and unsettling many of their governing assumptions. Exploring the power of *Antigone* in a variety of political, cultural, and theoretical settings, Honig identifies the 'Antigone-effect' - which moves those who enlist *Antigone* for their politics from activism into lamentation. She argues that *Antigone*'s own lamentations can be seen not just as signs of dissidence but rather as markers of a rival world view with its own sovereignty and vitality. Honig argues that the play does not offer simply a model for resistance politics or 'equal dignity in death', but a more positive politics of counter-sovereignty and solidarity which emphasizes equality in life.

oedipus the king sparknotes: *The Watch* Joydeep Roy-Bhattacharya, 2012-06-05 This heartbreaking and haunting novel takes a timeless tragedy and hurls it into present-day Afghanistan, when a woman asks for the return of her brother's body in the midst of a war. Following a desperate night-long battle, a group of beleaguered soldiers in an isolated base in Kandahar are faced with a lone woman demanding the return of her brother's body. Is she a spy, a black widow, a lunatic, or is she what she claims to be: a grieving young sister intent on burying her brother according to local rites? Single-minded in her mission, she refuses to move from her spot on the field in full view of every soldier in the stark outpost. Her presence quickly proves dangerous as the camp's tense, claustrophobic atmosphere comes to a boil when the men begin arguing about what to do next. Taking its cues from the *Antigone* myth, Roy-Bhattacharya brilliantly recreates the chaos, intensity, and immediacy of battle, and conveys the inevitable repercussions felt by the soldiers, their families, and by one sister. The result is a gripping tour through the reality of this very contemporary conflict, and our most powerful expression to date of the nature and futility of war.

oedipus the king sparknotes: *Beowulf*, 2012-03-01 Finest heroic poem in Old English celebrates the exploits of Beowulf, a young nobleman of southern Sweden. Combines myth, Christian and pagan elements, and history into a powerful narrative. Genealogies.

oedipus the king sparknotes: *All But My Life* Gerda Weissmann Klein, 1995-03-31 All But My

Life is the unforgettable story of Gerda Weissmann Klein's six-year ordeal as a victim of Nazi cruelty. From her comfortable home in Bielitz (present-day Bielsko) in Poland to her miraculous survival and her liberation by American troops—including the man who was to become her husband—in Volary, Czechoslovakia, in 1945, Gerda takes the reader on a terrifying journey. Gerda's serene and idyllic childhood is shattered when Nazis march into Poland on September 3, 1939. Although the Weissmanns were permitted to live for a while in the basement of their home, they were eventually separated and sent to German labor camps. Over the next few years Gerda experienced the slow, inexorable stripping away of all but her life. By the end of the war she had lost her parents, brother, home, possessions, and community; even the dear friends she made in the labor camps, with whom she had shared so many hardships, were dead. Despite her horrifying experiences, Klein conveys great strength of spirit and faith in humanity. In the darkness of the camps, Gerda and her young friends manage to create a community of friendship and love. Although stripped of the essence of life, they were able to survive the barbarity of their captors. Gerda's beautifully written story gives an invaluable message to everyone. It introduces them to last century's terrible history of devastation and prejudice, yet offers them hope that the effects of hatred can be overcome.

oedipus the king sparknotes: Thebaid Statius, 2011-03-15 The *Thebaid*, a Latin epic in twelve books by Statius (c. 45–96 C. E.) reexamines events following the abdication of Oedipus, focusing on the civil war between the brothers Eteocles, King of Thebes, and Polynices, who comes at the head of an army from Argos to claim his share of royal power. The poem is long—each of the twelve books comprises over eight hundred lines—and complex, and it exploits a broad range of literary works, both Greek and Latin. Severely curtailed though he was by the emperor Domitian and his Reign of Terror, Statius nevertheless created a meditation on autocratic rule that is still of political interest today. Popular in its own time and much admired in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance—most notably by Dante and Chaucer—the poem fell into obscurity and has, for readers of English, been poorly served by translators. Statius composed his poem in dactylic hexameters, the supreme verse form in antiquity. In his hands, this venerable line is flexible, capable of subtle emphases and dramatic shifts in tempo; it is an expressive, responsive medium. In this new and long-awaited translation the poet Jane Wilson Joyce employs a loose, six-beat line in her English translation, which allows her to reveal something of the original rhythm and of the interplay between sentence structure and verse framework. The clarity of Joyce's translation highlights the poem's superb versification, sophisticated use of intertextuality, and bold formal experimentation and innovation. A substantial introduction and annotations make this epic accessible to students of all levels.

oedipus the king sparknotes: April Morning Howard Fast, 2011-12-13 Howard Fast's bestselling coming-of-age novel about one boy's introduction to the horrors of war amid the brutal first battle of the American Revolution On April 19, 1775, musket shots ring out over Lexington, Massachusetts. As the sun rises over the battlefield, fifteen-year-old Adam Cooper stands among the outmatched patriots, facing a line of British troops. Determined to defend his home and prove his worth to his disapproving father, Cooper is about to embark on the most significant day of his life. The Battle of Lexington and Concord will be the starting point of the American Revolution—and when Cooper becomes a man. Sweeping in scope and masterful in execution, *April Morning* is a classic of American literature and an unforgettable story of one community's fateful struggle for freedom. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Howard Fast including rare photos from the author's estate.

oedipus the king sparknotes: The Lies that Bind: Rethinking Identity Kwame Anthony Appiah, 2018-08-28 A Washington Post Notable Book of the Year As seen on the Netflix series *Explained* From the best-selling author of *Cosmopolitanism* comes this revealing exploration of how the collective identities that shape our polarized world are riddled with contradiction. Who do you think you are? That's a question bound up in another: What do you think you are? Gender. Religion. Race. Nationality. Class. Culture. Such affiliations give contours to our sense of self, and shape our polarized world. Yet the collective identities they spawn are riddled with contradictions, and

cratered with falsehoods. Kwame Anthony Appiah's *The Lies That Bind* is an incandescent exploration of the nature and history of the identities that define us. It challenges our assumptions about how identities work. We all know there are conflicts between identities, but Appiah shows how identities are created by conflict. Religion, he demonstrates, gains power because it isn't primarily about belief. Our everyday notions of race are the detritus of discarded nineteenth-century science. Our cherished concept of the sovereign nation—of self-rule—is incoherent and unstable. Class systems can become entrenched by efforts to reform them. Even the very idea of Western culture is a shimmering mirage. From Anton Wilhelm Amo, the eighteenth-century African child who miraculously became an eminent European philosopher before retiring back to Africa, to Italo Svevo, the literary marvel who changed citizenship without leaving home, to Appiah's own father, Joseph, an anticolonial firebrand who was ready to give his life for a nation that did not yet exist, Appiah interweaves keen-edged argument with vibrant narratives to expose the myths behind our collective identities. These "mistaken identities," Appiah explains, can fuel some of our worst atrocities—from chattel slavery to genocide. And yet, he argues that social identities aren't something we can simply do away with. They can usher in moral progress and bring significance to our lives by connecting the small scale of our daily existence with larger movements, causes, and concerns. Elaborating a bold and clarifying new theory of identity, *The Lies That Bind* is a ringing philosophical statement for the anxious, conflict-ridden twenty-first century. This book will transform the way we think about who—and what—"we" are.

oedipus the king sparknotes: Sophocles I Sophocles, 2013-04-19 Sophocles I contains the plays "Antigone," translated by Elizabeth Wyckoff; "Oedipus the King," translated by David Grene; and "Oedipus at Colonus," translated by Robert Fitzgerald. Sixty years ago, the University of Chicago Press undertook a momentous project: a new translation of the Greek tragedies that would be the ultimate resource for teachers, students, and readers. They succeeded. Under the expert management of eminent classicists David Grene and Richmond Lattimore, those translations combined accuracy, poetic immediacy, and clarity of presentation to render the surviving masterpieces of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides in an English so lively and compelling that they remain the standard translations. Today, Chicago is taking pains to ensure that our Greek tragedies remain the leading English-language versions throughout the twenty-first century. In this highly anticipated third edition, Mark Griffith and Glenn W. Most have carefully updated the translations to bring them even closer to the ancient Greek while retaining the vibrancy for which our English versions are famous. This edition also includes brand-new translations of Euripides' *Medea*, *The Children of Heracles*, *Andromache*, and *Iphigenia among the Taurians*, fragments of lost plays by Aeschylus, and the surviving portion of Sophocles's satyr-drama *The Trackers*. New introductions for each play offer essential information about its first production, plot, and reception in antiquity and beyond. In addition, each volume includes an introduction to the life and work of its tragedian, as well as notes addressing textual uncertainties and a glossary of names and places mentioned in the plays. In addition to the new content, the volumes have been reorganized both within and between volumes to reflect the most up-to-date scholarship on the order in which the plays were originally written. The result is a set of handsome paperbacks destined to introduce new generations of readers to these foundational works of Western drama, art, and life.

oedipus the king sparknotes: Oedipus the King and Antigone Sophocles, 2014-09-08 Translated and edited by Peter D. Arnott, this classic and highly popular edition contains two essential plays in the development of Greek tragedy—*Oedipus the King* and *Antigone*—for performance and study. The editor's introduction contains a brief biography of the playwright and a description of Greek theater. Also included are a list of principal dates in the life of Sophocles and a bibliography.

oedipus the king sparknotes: The Oedipus Cycle Sophocles, 1977 English versions of Sophocles' three great tragedies based on the myth of Oedipus, translated for a modern audience by two gifted poets. Index.

oedipus the king sparknotes: Ovid: Ars Amatoria, Book III Ovid, 2003 This is a full-scale commentary devoted to the third book of Ovid's *Ars Amatoria*. It includes an Introduction, a revision

of E. J. Kenney's Oxford text of the book, and detailed line-by-line and section-by-section commentary on the language and ideas of the text. Combining traditional philological scholarship with some of the concerns of more recent critics, both Introduction and commentary place particular emphasis on: the language of the text; the relationship of the book to the didactic, 'erotodidactic' and elegiac traditions; Ovid's usurpation of the *lena's* traditional role of erotic instructor of women; the poet's handling of the controversial subjects of cosmetics and personal adornment; and the literary and political significances of Ovid's unexpected emphasis in the text of *Ars III* on restraint and 'moderation'. The book will be of interest to all postgraduates and scholars working on Augustan poetry.

oedipus the king sparknotes: *Borders* Thomas King, 2021-09-07 A People Magazine Best Book Fall 2021 From celebrated Indigenous author Thomas King and award-winning Métis artist Natasha Donovan comes a powerful graphic novel about a family caught between nations. *Borders* is a masterfully told story of a boy and his mother whose road trip is thwarted at the border when they identify their citizenship as Blackfoot. Refusing to identify as either American or Canadian first bars their entry into the US, and then their return into Canada. In the limbo between countries, they find power in their connection to their identity and to each other. *Borders* explores nationhood from an Indigenous perspective and resonates deeply with themes of identity, justice, and belonging.

oedipus the king sparknotes: *Powers of Horror* Julia Kristeva, 2024-03-26 In *Powers of Horror*, Julia Kristeva offers an extensive and profound consideration of the nature of abjection. Drawing on Freud and Lacan, she analyzes the nature of attitudes toward repulsive subjects and examines the function of these topics in the writings of Louis-Ferdinand Céline, Marcel Proust, James Joyce, and other authors. Kristeva identifies the abject with the eruption of the real and the presence of death. She explores how art and religion each offer ways of purifying the abject, arguing that amid abjection, boundaries between subject and object break down.

oedipus the king sparknotes: *The Old Man and the Sea* Ernest Hemingway, 2022-08-01 DigiCat Publishing presents to you this special edition of *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway. DigiCat Publishing considers every written word to be a legacy of humankind. Every DigiCat book has been carefully reproduced for republishing in a new modern format. The books are available in print, as well as ebooks. DigiCat hopes you will treat this work with the acknowledgment and passion it deserves as a classic of world literature.

oedipus the king sparknotes: *Heroes* Stephen Fry, 2019 Few mere mortals have ever embarked on such bold and heart-stirring adventures, overcome myriad monstrous perils, or outwitted scheming vengeful gods, quite as stylishly and triumphantly as Greek heroes. In this companion to his bestselling *Mythos*, Stephen Fry brilliantly retells these dramatic, funny, tragic and timeless tales. Join Jason aboard the *Argo* as he quests for the Golden Fleece. See *Atalanta* - who was raised by bears - outrun any man before being tricked with golden apples. Witness wily Oedipus solve the riddle of the Sphinx and discover how Bellerophon captures the winged horse Pegasus to help him slay the monster Chimera. *Heroes* is the story of what we mortals are truly capable of - at our worst and our very best.

oedipus the king sparknotes: *On Justice, Power & Human Nature* Thucydides, 1993 Designed for students with little or no background in ancient Greek language and culture, this collection of extracts from *The History of the Peloponnesian War* includes those passages that shed most light on Thucydides' political theory--famous as well as important but lesser-known pieces frequently overlooked by nonspecialists. Newly translated into spare, vigorous English, and situated within a connective narrative framework, Woodruff's selections will be of special interest to instructors in political theory and Greek civilization. Includes maps, notes, glossary.

oedipus the king sparknotes: *The Cure at Troy* Seamus Heaney, 2014-01-28 *The Cure at Troy* is Seamus Heaney's version of Sophocles' *Philoctetes*. Written in the fifth century BC, this play concerns the predicament of the outcast hero, Philoctetes, whom the Greeks marooned on the island of Lemnos and forgot about until the closing stages of the Siege of Troy. Abandoned because of a wounded foot, Philoctetes nevertheless possesses an invincible bow without which the Greeks

cannot win the Trojan War. They are forced to return to Lemnos and seek out Philoctetes' support in a drama that explores the conflict between personal integrity and political expediency. Heaney's version of Philoctetes is a fast-paced, brilliant work ideally suited to the stage. Heaney holds on to the majesty of the Greek original, but manages to give his verse the flavor of Irish speech and context.

oedipus the king sparknotes: *King Leopold's Ghost* Adam Hochschild, 2019-05-14 With an introduction by award-winning novelist Barbara Kingsolver In the late nineteenth century, when the great powers in Europe were tearing Africa apart and seizing ownership of land for themselves, King Leopold of Belgium took hold of the vast and mostly unexplored territory surrounding the Congo River. In his devastatingly barbarous colonization of this area, Leopold stole its rubber and ivory, pummelled its people and set up a ruthless regime that would reduce the population by half. . While he did all this, he carefully constructed an image of himself as a deeply feeling humanitarian. Winner of the Duff Cooper Prize in 1999, *King Leopold's Ghost* is the true and haunting account of this man's brutal regime and its lasting effect on a ruined nation. It is also the inspiring and deeply moving account of a handful of missionaries and other idealists who travelled to Africa and unwittingly found themselves in the middle of a gruesome holocaust. Instead of turning away, these brave few chose to stand up against Leopold. Adam Hochschild brings life to this largely untold story and, crucially, casts blame on those responsible for this atrocity.

oedipus the king sparknotes: *Antigone* Sophocles,, 2015-03-13 When her dead brother is decreed a traitor, his body left unburied beyond the city walls, Antigone refuses to accept this most severe of punishments. Defying her uncle who governs, she dares to say 'No'. Forging ahead with a funeral alone, she places personal allegiance before politics, a tenacious act that will trigger a cycle of destruction. Renowned for the revelatory nature of his work, Ivo van Hove first enthralled London audiences with his ground-breaking *Roman Tragedies* seen at the Barbican in 2009. Drawing on his 'ability to break open texts calcified by tradition' (Guardian), the director now turns to a classic Greek masterpiece.

oedipus the king sparknotes: *Antigone; Oedipus the King; Electra* Sophocles, 2008-08-14 Love and loyalty, hatred and revenge, fear, deprivation, and political ambition: these are the motives which thrust the characters portrayed in these three Sophoclean masterpieces on to their collision course with catastrophe. Recognized in his own day as perhaps the greatest of the Greek tragedians, Sophocles' reputation has remained undimmed for two and a half thousand years. His greatest innovation in the tragic medium was his development of a central tragic figure, faced with a test of will and character, risking obloquy and death rather than compromise his or her principles: it is striking that Antigone and Electra both have a woman as their intransigent 'hero'. Antigone dies rather neglect her duty to her family, Oedipus' determination to save his city results in the horrific discovery that he has committed both incest and parricide, and Electra's unremitting anger at her mother and her lover keeps her in servitude and despair. These vivid translations combine elegance and modernity, and are remarkable for their lucidity and accuracy. Their sonorous diction, economy, and sensitivity to the varied metres and modes of the original musical delivery make them equally suitable for reading or theatrical performance. ABOUT THE SERIES: For over 100 years Oxford World's Classics has made available the widest range of literature from around the globe. Each affordable volume reflects Oxford's commitment to scholarship, providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features, including expert introductions by leading authorities, helpful notes to clarify the text, up-to-date bibliographies for further study, and much more.

oedipus the king sparknotes: *The Odyssey* Homer, 2010-05-25 Penelope has been waiting for her husband Odysseus to return from Troy for many years. Little does she know that his path back to her has been blocked by astonishing and terrifying trials. Will he overcome the hideous monsters, beautiful witches and treacherous seas that confront him? This rich and beautiful adventure story is one of the most influential works of literature in the world.

oedipus the king sparknotes: *Three Theban Plays* Sophocles, 2014-06-26 The tyrant is a child of Pride Who drinks from his sickening cup Recklessness and vanity, Until from his high crest

headlongHe plummets to the dust of hope. These heroic Greek dramas have moved theatergoers and readers since the fifth century B.C. They tower above other tragedies and have a place on the College Board AP English reading list.

oedipus the king sparknotes: [Island](#) Aldous Huxley, 2014-01-01 While shipwrecked on the island of Pala, Will Farnaby, a disenchanted journalist, discovers a utopian society that has flourished for the past 120 years. Although he at first disregards the possibility of an ideal society, as Farnaby spends time with the people of Pala his ideas about humanity change. HarperPerennial Classics brings great works of literature to life in digital format, upholding the highest standards in ebook production and celebrating reading in all its forms. Look for more titles in the HarperPerennial Classics collection to build your digital library.

oedipus the king sparknotes: [Oedipus Tyrannos](#) Sophocles, 2021-06-08 This Norton Critical Edition features a newly translated and annotated text of Sophocles's Greek tragedy, Oedipus Tyrannos. The play begins late in the mythic story, when Oedipus, the confident, assertive immigrant who serves as ruler of Thebes, is called upon to investigate a plague devastating the city. Tracing the cause of this sickness leads Oedipus gradually to discover terrible truths about his own family that have been buried for a generation, hinted at only by a confusing array of mysterious prophecies. Sources provides other ancient interpretations of the Oedipus myth, as well as part of Thucydides' account of the plague at Athens, and discussions of the play's structure and of free will from Aristotle; all ancient texts are newly translated for this Critical Edition. Criticism offers contemporary analyses and provide context for some of the key themes found in the play. A chronology is also included--

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