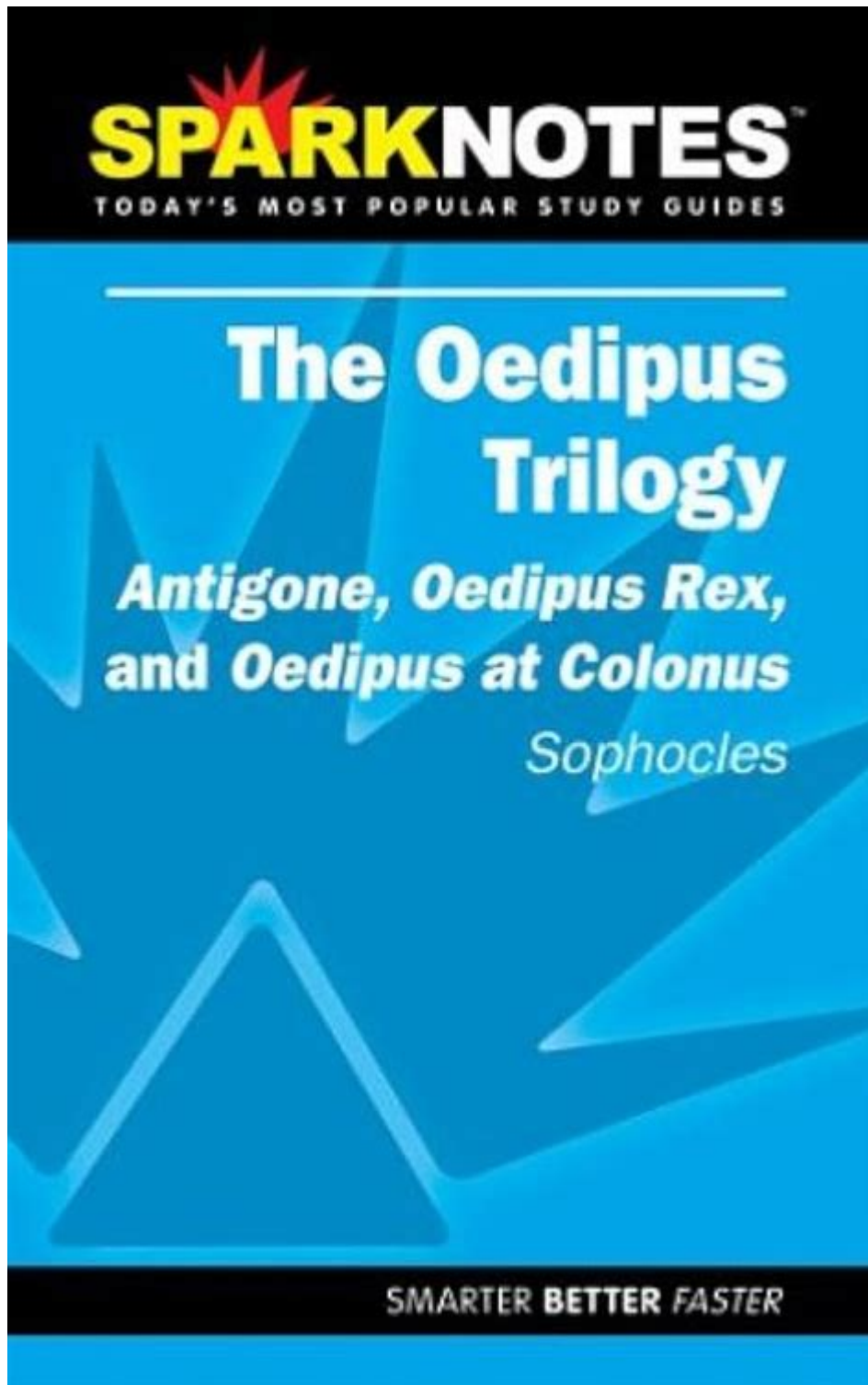


# Oedipus Rex Sparknotes



## # Oedipus Rex SparkNotes: A Comprehensive Guide to Sophocles' Tragedy

Are you facing a looming deadline for your Oedipus Rex essay? Feeling overwhelmed by the complex themes and intricate plot of Sophocles' masterpiece? This comprehensive guide serves as your ultimate Oedipus Rex SparkNotes, providing a concise yet insightful overview of the play, its characters, and its enduring significance. We'll delve into the key plot points, explore the central themes, and unpack the critical interpretations that have shaped its legacy for centuries. Forget

struggling with dense academic analyses – this guide offers a clear and accessible path to understanding one of the greatest tragedies ever written.

## **The Core Plot of Oedipus Rex: A Quick Summary**

Oedipus Rex, also known as Oedipus the King, unfolds in Thebes, a city ravaged by a plague. To lift the curse, Oedipus, the city's king, vows to find the murderer of the previous king, Laius. Ironically, Oedipus himself is the culprit, unknowingly fulfilling a prophecy that foretold he would kill his father and marry his mother. Through a series of revelations—often delivered through dramatic pronouncements and increasingly frantic questioning—the horrifying truth is unveiled. This unraveling leads to Oedipus's self-blinding and exile, a fitting punishment for his unwitting crimes and a powerful symbol of the play's tragic consequences.

### **Key Characters and Their Roles:**

**Oedipus:** The tragic hero, driven by a desperate desire to protect his city but ultimately consumed by fate. His pride (hubris) is a central contributing factor to his downfall.

**Jocasta:** Oedipus's wife and mother, initially unaware of the incestuous relationship. Her eventual discovery leads to her suicide.

**Tiresias:** The blind prophet who knows the truth but initially hesitates to reveal it, adding layers of suspense and foreshadowing.

**Creon:** Oedipus's brother-in-law, who acts as a crucial mediator and advisor throughout the play, often providing a contrasting perspective to Oedipus's impulsive nature.

**Chorus:** The chorus acts as a commentator, providing insight into the unfolding events and the emotional impact on the Theban people. Their reactions underscore the broader societal implications of Oedipus's actions.

## **Exploring the Central Themes of Oedipus Rex:**

Oedipus Rex SparkNotes wouldn't be complete without examining the profound themes that resonate even today. These include:

### **1. Fate vs. Free Will:**

This is perhaps the most debated theme. Does Oedipus's destiny control his actions, or does his own hubris and choices lead to his downfall? The play leaves this question open to interpretation, fueling ongoing scholarly discussion. The relentless pursuit of truth, even when it's painful, is a central

aspect of this debate.

## **2. The Nature of Truth and Knowledge:**

The relentless pursuit of truth, even when it's painful, is a central theme. Oedipus's unwavering quest to uncover the murderer leads to the shattering revelation of his own identity, demonstrating the potentially destructive power of knowledge.

## **3. Hubris and its Consequences:**

Oedipus's excessive pride and confidence (hubris) contribute significantly to his tragic fate. His refusal to accept limitations and his unwavering belief in his own ability to control his destiny ultimately lead to his ruin. This serves as a cautionary tale against unchecked ambition and arrogance.

## **4. Suffering and Redemption:**

While Oedipus's actions are irredeemable, his suffering could be seen as a form of self-punishment and a path toward a kind of tragic redemption. His self-blinding is a powerful act of atonement, acknowledging his guilt and the devastating consequences of his actions.

## **Critical Interpretations and Lasting Impact:**

Oedipus Rex SparkNotes wouldn't be complete without touching upon the various interpretations over the centuries. From Freudian psychoanalysis linking the play to the Oedipus complex to feminist analyses of Jocasta's role, the play continues to generate critical debate. Its exploration of human fallibility, the power of fate, and the complexities of human relationships ensures its enduring relevance in modern times.

## **Conclusion:**

Understanding Sophocles' Oedipus Rex requires a careful examination of its plot, characters, and themes. This Oedipus Rex SparkNotes has provided a concise yet comprehensive overview, aiming to equip you with the necessary knowledge to navigate the play's intricacies. Whether you're a student tackling an essay or simply a curious reader, this guide provides a strong foundation for

appreciating this timeless masterpiece of Greek tragedy. Remember to delve deeper into the text itself for a richer understanding and to appreciate the nuances of Sophocles' masterful storytelling.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

1. What is the Oedipus Complex? The Oedipus complex, a psychoanalytic theory by Sigmund Freud, describes a child's unconscious sexual desire for the opposite-sex parent and feelings of rivalry with the same-sex parent. While Freud drew parallels between Oedipus's story and this complex, it's crucial to note this is a psychological interpretation and not necessarily a direct reflection of Sophocles' intentions.
2. What is the significance of Oedipus's self-blinding? Oedipus's self-blinding is a symbolic act of self-punishment. It represents his acceptance of responsibility for his actions, his remorse, and his desire to escape the horrific truth he has uncovered.
3. How does the Chorus function in the play? The Chorus acts as a commentator and representative of the Theban people. Their reactions, observations, and songs provide insight into the unfolding events and the emotional impact on the city.
4. What is the role of prophecy in Oedipus Rex? Prophecy is a key driving force in the play. The prophecies surrounding Oedipus's birth and future actions set the stage for the tragedy, highlighting the conflict between fate and free will.
5. Is Oedipus a hero or a villain? Oedipus is a complex character, arguably neither solely a hero nor a villain. He's a tragic hero, possessing noble qualities but ultimately brought down by his flaws and the weight of fate. His actions, while horrific, stem from a desire to protect his people, making him a figure of both sympathy and condemnation.

**oedipus rex 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 rex 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 rex 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 rex 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 rex 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 rex sparknotes: Everything Under** Daisy Johnson, 2018-10-23 SHORTLISTED FOR THE 2018 MAN BOOKER PRIZE An eerie, watery reimagining of the Oedipus myth set on the canals of Oxford, from the author of *Fen* The dictionary doesn't contain every word. Gretel, a lexicographer by trade, knows this better than most. She grew up on a houseboat with her mother, wandering the canals of Oxford and speaking a private language of their own invention. Her mother disappeared when Gretel was a teen, abandoning her to foster care, and Gretel has tried to move on, spending her days updating dictionary entries. One phone call from her mother is all it takes for the past to come rushing back. To find her, Gretel will have to recover buried memories of her final, fateful winter on the canals. A runaway boy had found community and shelter with them, and all three were haunted by their past and stalked by an ominous creature lurking in the canal: the bonak. Everything and nothing at once, the bonak was Gretel's name for the thing she feared most. And now that she's searching for her mother, she'll have to face it. In this electrifying reinterpretation of a classical myth, Daisy Johnson explores questions of fate and free will, gender fluidity, and fractured family relationships. *Everything Under*—a debut novel whose surreal, watery landscape will resonate with fans of *Fen*—is a daring, moving story that will leave you unsettled and unstrung.

**oedipus rex 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 rex sparknotes: The Darker Face of the Earth** Rita Dove, 2017-09-28 Published to coincide with its British premiere at the Royal National Theatre, *The Darker Face of the Earth* is Rita Dove's first play. Set on a plantation in pre-Civil War South Carolina, it has been performed to great critical acclaim.

**oedipus rex 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 rex 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' 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 rex sparknotes: Sons and Lovers** D.H. Lawrence, 1913

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

**oedipus rex sparknotes: God as Author** Gene C. Fant, Jr., 2010 A thoughtful literary treatise suggesting that the Gospel is not just like a story, but that narrative in general is like the Gospel.

**oedipus rex 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 rex 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 rex 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 rex 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 rex 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 rex 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 rex 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 rex sparknotes: Ajax** Sophocles, Fredericus H. M. Blaydes, 1875

**oedipus rex 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 rex sparknotes: My Oedipus Complex** Frank O'Connor, 2005-07-07 This collection of short stories contains, among others, 'My Oedipus Complex', 'The Genius', 'The Study of History', 'First Confession', 'The Paragon', and 'Don Juan's Temptation'.

**oedipus rex 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 rex 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* unrelenting 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 rex sparknotes: *The Theban Plays*** Sophocles, 1973-04-26 King Oedipus/Oedipus at Colonus/Antigone Three towering works of Greek tragedy depicting the inexorable downfall of a doomed royal dynasty The legends surrounding the house of Thebes inspired Sophocles to create this powerful trilogy about humanity's struggle against fate. King Oedipus is the devastating portrayal of a ruler who brings pestilence to Thebes for crimes he does not realize he has committed and then inflicts a brutal punishment upon himself. Oedipus at Colonus provides a fitting conclusion to the life of the aged and blinded king, while Antigone depicts the fall of the next generation, through the conflict between a young woman ruled by her conscience and a king too confident of his own authority. Translated with an Introduction by E. F. WATLING

**oedipus rex 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 headlong He 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 rex 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 rex sparknotes: *The Greek Plays*** Sophocles, Aeschylus, Euripides, 2017-09-05 A landmark anthology of the masterpieces of Greek drama, featuring all-new, highly accessible translations of some of the world's most beloved plays, including *Agamemnon*, *Prometheus Bound*, *Bacchae*, *Electra*, *Medea*, *Antigone*, and *Oedipus the King*. Featuring translations by Emily Wilson, Frank Nisetich, Sarah Ruden, Rachel Kitzinger, Mary Lefkowitz, and James Romm. The great plays of Ancient Greece are among the most enduring and important legacies of the Western world. Not only is the influence of Greek drama palpable in everything from Shakespeare to modern television, the insights contained in Greek tragedy have shaped our perceptions of the nature of human life. Poets, philosophers, and politicians have long borrowed and adapted the ideas and language of Greek drama to help them make sense of their own times. This exciting curated anthology features a cross section of the most popular—and most widely taught—plays in the Greek canon. Fresh translations into contemporary English breathe new life into the texts while capturing, as faithfully as possible, their original meaning. This outstanding collection also offers short biographies of the playwrights, enlightening and clarifying introductions to the plays, and helpful annotations at the bottom of each page. Appendices by prominent classicists on such topics as “Greek Drama and Politics,” “The Theater of Dionysus,” and “Plato and Aristotle on Tragedy” give the reader a rich contextual background. A detailed time line of the dramas, as well as a list of adaptations of Greek drama to literature, stage, and film from the time of Seneca to the present, helps chart the history of Greek tragedy and illustrate its influence on our culture from the Roman Empire to the present day. With a veritable who's who of today's most renowned and distinguished classical translators, *The Greek Plays* is certain to be the definitive text for years to come. Praise for *The Greek Plays* “Mary Lefkowitz and James Romm deftly have gathered strong new translations from Frank Nisetich, Sarah

Ruden, Rachel Kitzinger, Emily Wilson, as well as from Mary Lefkowitz and James Romm themselves. There is a freshness and pungency in these new translations that should last a long time. I admire also the introductions to the plays and the biographies and annotations provided. Closing essays by five distinguished classicists—the brilliant Daniel Mendelsohn and the equally skilled David Rosenbloom, Joshua Billings, Mary-Kay Gamel, and Gregory Hays—all enlightened me. This seems to me a helpful light into our gathering darkness.”—Harold Bloom

**oedipus rex 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--

**oedipus rex 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.

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