

Core D Comp & Lit | *Oedipus the King* Annotation Guide

1) As discussed in class, Oedipus is THE poster child for a tragic hero. Make notes on:

- Pathos- *suffering*, feelings of pity and fear
- Hamartia- *a tragic flaw* that causes the downfall of a hero
- Hubris- excessive *pride* and disrespect for the natural order of things
- Peripeteia- the *reversal* of fate experienced by the hero
- Anagnorisis- moment of understanding for the hero, *recognizing*
- Nemesis- *a punishment* that the protagonist cannot avoid
- Catharsis- *released* feelings of pity & fear felt by the audience for the hero

2) Themes

- As you will read in the introduction, Oedipus is seen as the ideal Athenian man before his downfall, including traits of courage, intelligence, adaptability, and civic virtue. Look for examples of this in the play.
- Religion vs. Secularism (see introduction)
- Greek justice
- Man vs. Fate

3) Literary devices

- Three types of irony
- Symbolism, especially references to sight, eyes, blindness, light, etc.
- Foreshadowing
- Other devices you may notice that enhance the plot