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## Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*

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### *Unraveling the Mystery (Exodos) Study Guide*

1. What has happened to Jocasta? Oedipus?
2. What is symbolic about Oedipus' act of self-mutilation?
3. Again, what character remains to comfort Oedipus? How does this complete the characterization of the chorus?
4. What do Oedipus' words in lines 1285-1288 suggest about the questions of moral responsibility, fate, and free will raised in this play? ("Apollo. Apollo. Dear children, the god was Apollo. He brought my sick, sick fate upon me. But the blinding hands were my own!")
5. Who is to rule Thebes now that Oedipus is exiled? Why is this ironic, given Oedipus' early concerns?
6. What requests does Oedipus make of Creon?
7. What moral lesson does the Chorus draw from the action of the play?
8. In Greek, the name Oedipus (Oida Pous) meant "swell foot or club foot," and "on the track of knowledge. Why is Oedipus' name so significant in this play?