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Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*

Oedipus Accuses Creon (Scene 2 and Ode 2) Study Guide

1. Of what is Creon accused by Oedipus?
2. Why does Oedipus ask Creon the questions he does in lines 526-537?
3. What argument does Creon use to convince Oedipus that he has no desire for the throne of Thebes?
4. What does Creon mean by, "...time, and time alone, will show the just man, though scoundrels are discovered in a day"?
5. Who is Jocasta? In what type of tone is she addressing Creon and Oedipus when she first enters scene 2?
6. Why does Oedipus release Creon?
7. Why does Jocasta tell Oedipus the story about her baby?
8. What detail from Jocasta's story of Laius' murder pricks Oedipus' memory?
9. As Oedipus begins to question Jocasta more carefully about Laius' death, what does he begin to suspect? How do we know?

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10. What eyewitness to the murder of Laius still exists? What is foreshadowed by the servant's request to leave Thebes as soon as he discovers Oedipus on the throne?

11. What reason does Oedipus give for wanting to question the shepherd (servant)?

12. What happens when Oedipus asks Polybus and Merope about the drunken man's words?

13. What does the oracle at Delphi tell Oedipus when he asks about the drunken man's words?

14. What is revealed about Oedipus' personality by his description of the encounter he had with the old man where the three roads meet?

15. Oedipus says, "Where is a man more miserable than I? More hated by the gods? Citizen and alien alike must never shelter me or speak to me – I must be shunned by all." Which character in scene 1 prophesized this very thing?

16. What piece of the shepherd's (servant's) story gives Oedipus hope that he is not the murderer?

17. What warning does the chorus voice in ode 2?

18. What does the Chorus insist will happen with the prophecies and stories they have heard?