Reading Questions:

Prologue

1. What does Oedipus want to know from the Elder?

2. According to the priest, what is happening throughout Thebes?

3. What does the priest want Oedipus to do?

4. Where and on what mission has Oedipus sent Creon?

5. According to Creon, why does Thebes suffer? (Hint: What unjust event has happened in the past?)

6. According to Creon, what is the problem in finding witnesses or getting to the root of the problem?

7. What is Oedipus' attitude about "break[ing] this plague"?

Ode of Entry

1. According to the Chorus, what are conditions in the city?

2. For what do they pray?

First Episode

1. What is ironic about Oedipus' claim that he is "stranger to the story"?

2. What penalties does Oedipus decree on the guilty party?

3. What is ironic about Oedipus' statement "his marriage bed my bed of seed"?

4. According to the chorus, what divine being knows the truth about who the killer is?

5. According to the chorus, who might be able to help discover the murderer's identity?

6. What are the rumors surrounding the murder/murderer?

7. How does Oedipus treat Tiresias at first?

8. What does Tiresias know?

9. How does Oedipus react?

10. What accusation does Oedipus hurl at Tiresias?

11. What is Tiresias response?

12. As the conversation continues, what happens to Oedipus' composure?

13. What does Tiresias accuse Oedipus of being "wrapped together in"? What is the sin (you know, but he doesn't)?

14. Explain Tiresias statement: "These very gibes you mouth at me will soon be hurled by every mouth at you."

15. Whom does Oedipus now accuse? What is his reasoning?

16. What seems to emerge as one of Oedipus' character flaws?

17. According to Tiresias, what will Oedipus discover today?