Lesson 2 – Discussion/Study Questions

Read *Oedipus the King*, from "My poor children, I know why you have come" through "but what is overlooked escapes" (lines 67–130),

- 1. How does Oedipus refer to the citizens of Thebes? What might this suggest about how he understands his responsibilities as a king? 2. Why are the citizens of Thebes "sick"? How do you know? Hint: Review your reading from Lesson 1. 3. What is the source of Oedipus's own "illness" (line 71)? How is this related to the "illness" that plagues Thebes? 4. What role does Oedipus take on in healing the suffering of Thebes? 5. Who is "him" in the line "to learn from him what I might do or say" (line 84)? How do you know?
- 6. Where has Oedipus chosen to look for answers in his search for a solution to Thebes's problem?

7.	According to Apollo, what action(s) should be taken to cure Thebes?
8.	What words or phrases can help you to make meaning of the word <i>harboured</i> in this context (line 114)? How can this help you to understand the source of Thebes's illness?
9.	Based on your understanding of <i>harboured</i> , what role is Apollo suggesting the people of Thebes have played in their own suffering?