

Read *Oedipus the King*, from “When Laius fell in bloody death, where was he” through “[OEDIPUS and CREON go into the palace]” (lines 131–177).

1. Who/what is “the Sphinx?”
2. What might Oedipus’s victory against the Sphinx suggest about his strengths and skills as a leader?
3. What incident from his past is Oedipus referring to when he declares “Then I will start afresh and once again shed light on darkness” (lines 159–160)?
4. What do Sophocles’s repeated references to Oedipus’s success in solving the Sphinx’s riddle suggest about how Oedipus will respond to the crisis in Thebes?