

Read *Oedipus the King*, from “Oh sweet speaking voice of Zeus,” through “more so than in all other men” (lines 178-355).

1. To whom is the Chorus speaking? How does this mode of address compare to the interactions Sophocles has structured thus far in the drama? Hint: Consider the stage directions prior to the Chorus’s speech.
2. How does the Chorus describe the gods? What is the cumulative effect of these words?
3. How does the effect you identified further develop your understanding of the relationship between humans and gods?
4. What authority does Oedipus claim for himself?
5. According to Oedipus, what does he now have that once belonged to Laius? What might this suggest about how Oedipus understands his “strive to do everything I can to find...the man who spilled his blood” (lines 310–312)? Use evidence from the text to support your response.

6. How can your understanding of Oedipus's declaration help you to make meaning of *oath* in this context (line 323)?

7. Why might the Chorus consider Teiresias "god-like"? How can this help you to make meaning of the word *prophet* (line 354)?