Lesson 8 – Discussion/Study Questions

Read *Oedipus the King*, from "At least first listen to what I have to say" through "it is not yours alone" (lines 658–766).

- 1. What advice did Creon give to Oedipus (lines 670–672)? 2. Why does Oedipus consider Creon's "advice" a betrayal? 3. What is the relationship between Creon and Oedipus? How might this relationship make Oedipus feel about Creon's actions? 4. What questions does Oedipus ask Creon? 5. What does the repetition of "this wise man" suggest about the tone and meaning of Oedipus's question, "Why did this man, this wise man, not speak up" (line 684)? What does he think about Teiresias's wisdom and ability?
- 6. What evidence does Oedipus provide to build his argument against Teiresias?

7.	Why does Oedipus question Teiresias's skills as a prophet? Cite evidence from the play to support your answer.
8.	What questions does Creon ask Oedipus?
9.	What is Creon suggesting about the responsibilities of being a king through the statement "So how can being a king be sweeter to me than royal power without anxiety?" How do his questions develop his argument for his innocence?
10.	Who does Creon suggest Oedipus go to for proof of his innocence? How does this further develop Creon's argument?