

Student 6

Dr. Kikendall

Introduction to Literature

15 February, 2017

### Oedipus the King

Introduction: Oedipus the King, originally a drama, is an epic tragedy. By making the story a poem, instead of a drama, I have made the information more concise and not as many details, while still telling the original story. This makes it easier to understand. Instead of using many characters with a drama to get the lasting effect, this poem would be read aloud by one person.

The citizens of Thebes cry out to Oedipus the King,  
For him to rid of the plague's vicious sting.

The plague that conquers the city will stay,  
Unless the murderer is caught, the preceding king he did slay.

Oedipus strives to discover this strange mystery,  
But to do this, he must retrace his own history.

Jocasta, Oedipus' wife informs him that her long lost child,  
Was once thrown out of Thebes and exiled.

The oracle at Delphi revealed to the former king,  
That he would be murdered by his son, and he would give his mother a ring.

Long ago, Oedipus was told this same tale,  
And believes that he may be the murder the story happens to entail.

Oedipus ran from home to flee his fate,  
And at the crossroads, the king unknowingly he did assassinate.

Oedipus and his wife hear that his father has passed away,  
Ridding of the belief he is the murderer of his father, hooray!

His joy is short lived, for he is the baby  
Of King Laius and his lady.

Oedipus was raised by a family outside of the city,  
For he, a shepherd, did pity.  
Unable to handle the intense dread,  
Oedipus finds his wife hanging dead.

He removes the pins from his wife's cape,  
And out his eyes, he starts to scrape.

He is cast out of the city he has long known,

Where he will stay forever, alone.

## Works Cited

Sophocles. "Oedipus the King." (429 B.C.) *The Norton Introduction to Literature*, edited by Kelly J. Mays, 2013, pp. 1737-1776.