

## 11/15 BOARD NOTES

Define the following words.

FATE - The idea that your future is already determined; destiny.

FREE WILL - The idea that you control your future. The future can be changed.

PROPHECY - A prediction of the future.

*Question:* What is Oedipus' fate told in a prophecy?

*Answer:* <HINT> Oedipus will grow up and \_\_\_\_\_ his father and \_\_\_\_\_ his mother.

### IN THEBES

Laius (King) and Jocasta (Queen) have a son who is eventually called Oedipus. Laius and Jocasta hear a prophecy that their son will grow up and kill the father and marry the mother. They decide to kill the child by binding its feet with a metal spike. They give it to a shepherd to leave out in the fields.

### ON A MOUNTAIN RANGE

After much thought, the Theban Shepherd decides to not kill the baby. He sees a Corinthian Shepherd and gives the baby away. The Corinthian Shepherd returns to Corinth with the boy. The Theban shepherd returns to Thebes, lies and tells Laius and Jocasta that their son is dead.

### IN CORINTH

Polybus (King) and Merope (Queen) have been unable to have a child. The Corinthian shepherd returns and, as a gift, gives the infant baby to them. After seeing the baby's injured feet, they name him "Oedipus," which means to have wounded feet. Oedipus is raised in Corinth believing that Polybus and Merope are his true parents. However, as Oedipus matures, he hears rumors that he is not the true son of the King and Queen. Oedipus goes to an oracle and it told of the prophecy of killing his father and marrying his mother. He is so scared by this that he runs away from Corinth.

### LEAVING CORINTH

Oedipus leaves Corinth to protect who he believes are his true parents. On his travels, he ends up killing a stranger and his mates in a case of road rage. Oedipus then ends up in Thebes, his original birthplace, answers the riddle of the Sphinx, and is rewarded by Jocasta by becoming the next King of Thebes.

### THEME

The point is, Oedipus is trapped by his fate. No matter what he does to escape it, he only ends up fulfilling it.