

Oedipus Rex Reading Cloze

Section 1 of 4 (Pages 1-25)

DIRECTIONS: Based on what you have read, fill in the blanks below.

(1)_____ steps out of the royal palace and is greeted by a procession of (2)_____, who too are surrounded by the sorrowful citizens of the city of (3)_____. The city has been struck by a (4)_____ which is causing (5)_____, (6)_____, and (7)_____ to all die. Oedipus replies that he sees and understands the terrible fate, and that no one is more (8)_____ than he. He has sent (9)_____, his brother-in-law and fellow ruler, to the oracle at (10)_____ to find out how to stop the plague. When he arrives, Oedipus asks what the oracle has said. Oedipus is asked if he wants to hear the news in private, but Oedipus insists that all the (11) _____ should hear. Oedipus is told that the curse exists because the (12)_____ of (13)_____ is currently living within the city. This person must either be (14)_____ or (15) _____ in order for the plague to end.

Creon goes on to tell the story of the murder. (16)_____ was on his way to consult the (17)_____, and all but one of his fellow travelers were killed by thieves. (18)_____ asks why the Thebans made no attempt to find the murderers, as he was quite upset by this. However, Creon reminds him that Thebes was then more concerned with the curse of the (19)_____. Hearing this, Oedipus resolves to solve the mystery of Laius's murder. Oedipus makes a public (20)_____ that if the killer comes forward immediately, all he will face is (21)_____. He also says that if anyone came forward with information, they would receive (22)_____. Lastly, Oedipus declares a (23)_____ upon Laius's murderer and anyone who is protecting him. Oedipus also curses himself, proclaiming that should he discover the murderer to be a member of his own family, that person should be struck by the same exile and harsh treatment that he has just wished on the murderer. The leader of the Chorus suggests that Oedipus call for (24)_____, a great (25)_____, and Oedipus responds that he has already done so. When this man arrives, Oedipus immediately begins to question him about the cause of Thebes' latest curse. (26)_____ refuses at first to tell Oedipus what he knows. Not after Oedipus accuses him of being a (27)_____ does he tell Oedipus of the awful truth.