

## Oedipus Rex Reading Cloze

### Section 2 of 4 (Pages 26-50)

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

A boy leads in the blind prophet (1)\_\_\_\_\_. (2)\_\_\_\_\_ begs him to reveal who Laius's murderer is, but Tiresias answers only that he knows the truth but wishes he did not. This puzzling information only makes Oedipus feel (3)\_\_\_\_\_. Oedipus insists that Tiresias tell the (4)\_\_\_\_\_ what he knows. Provoked by the anger and insults of Oedipus, Tiresias begins to hint at his knowledge. Finally, when Oedipus furiously accuses Tiresias of (5)\_\_\_\_\_, Tiresias tells Oedipus that Oedipus himself is the (6)\_\_\_\_\_. Oedipus dares Tiresias to say it again, and so Tiresias calls Oedipus the murderer. Oedipus (7)\_\_\_\_\_ Tiresias's powers and insults his blindness, but Tiresias only responds that the insults will eventually be turned on (8)\_\_\_\_\_ by all of Thebes. Driven into a fury by the accusation, Oedipus proceeds to concoct a story that (9)\_\_\_\_\_ and (10)\_\_\_\_\_ are conspiring to overthrow him.

The Chorus asks Oedipus to (11)\_\_\_\_\_, but Tiresias only taunts Oedipus further, saying that the king does not even know who his (12)\_\_\_\_\_ are. This statement both infuriates and intrigues Oedipus, who asks for the truth of his parentage. Tiresias answers only in riddles, saying that the murderer of Laius will turn out to be both (13)\_\_\_\_\_ and (14)\_\_\_\_\_ to his children, both (15)\_\_\_\_\_ and (16)\_\_\_\_\_ to his mother. The characters exit and the Chorus takes the stage, confused and unsure whom to believe. They resolve that they will not believe any of these accusations against Oedipus unless they are shown proof. Creon enters, soon followed by Oedipus. Oedipus accuses Creon of trying to (17)\_\_\_\_\_ against him, since it was he who recommended that Tiresias come. Creon asks Oedipus to be rational and that he does not want to be (18)\_\_\_\_\_ because he is happy with what he has. However, Oedipus says that he wants Creon (19)\_\_\_\_\_. Both (20)\_\_\_\_\_ and the (21)\_\_\_\_\_ try to convince Oedipus that he is wrong. (22)\_\_\_\_\_ states that all prophets are false. As proof, she offers the fact that the Delphic oracle told Laius he would be murdered by his son, while actually his son was cast out of the city of (23)\_\_\_\_\_ as a baby and Laius was murdered by (24)\_\_\_\_\_. Her narrative of his murder, however, sounds familiar to (25)\_\_\_\_\_, and he asks to hear more.