

Oedipus Rex Reading Cloze

Section 3 of 4 (Pages 51-75)

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

Jocasta enters and convinces Oedipus that he should neither (1)_____ nor (2)_____ Creon, even though Oedipus remains convinced that Creon is guilty. Oedipus explains to Jocasta how Tiresias condemned him as Laius' murderer, but Jocasta responds that she does not believe in (3)_____. As proof, she offers the fact that the Delphic oracle told Laius he would be murdered by his son. However, Jocasta thinks Oedipus was cast out of (4)_____ as a baby and Laius was murdered by (5)_____. Her explanation of his murder, however, sounds familiar to Oedipus, and he asks to hear more. Jocasta tells him that Laius was killed at a three-way (6)_____, just before Oedipus arrived in (7)_____. Oedipus, stunned, tells Jocasta that, long ago, he was the prince of (8)_____. He heard at a banquet that he was not really the son of King (9)_____ and Queen (10)_____, and so went to the Oracle of (11)_____.

Though Oedipus did not receive a straight answer, it did tell him he would murder his (12)_____ and marry his (13)_____. Hearing this, Oedipus fled from home, never to return. It was then, on the journey toward the city of (14)_____, that Oedipus was confronted by a group of travelers, whom he killed in self-defense. Hoping not to be Laius's murderer, Oedipus sends for the (15)_____ who was the only man to survive the attack. Then, a messenger from (16)_____ enters, looking for Oedipus. He has come to tell Oedipus that his father, (17)_____, is dead, and that Corinth wants Oedipus to return and become (18)_____. Jocasta rejoices, since Polybus is dead from natural causes, Oedipus' prophecy is (19)_____. However, Oedipus still fears the part of the prophecy regarding the marriage to his mother. The messenger states not to worry, because (20)_____ and his wife, (21)_____, are not really Oedipus's true (22)_____. The messenger explains that he used to be a (23)_____ years ago. One day, he found a baby on Mount (24)_____, near Thebes. The baby had its ankles pinned together, and the former shepherd set them free. When Oedipus inquires who left him on the mountain, the messenger replies that another (25)_____, Laius's servant, gave him baby Oedipus. At this, Jocasta turns sharply, seeming to sense some horrible revelation on the horizon.