Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Oedipus the King* Discussion Questions**

Soon we will engage in our first **Socratic Circle** of the school year. Be prepared for the discussion by prepping answers to the following questions. Your insights during the discussion will be my way of assessing your comprehension, your effort, and your thinking. Your responses should be textually based for the best grade. Additionally, the essence of Socratic Circles is dialogue, so coming up with your own thought-provoking/discussion-generating questions about the text will help to improve discussion (and reflect favorably on your grade).

1. What are Oedipus’s flaws? Offer proof. Cite examples.
2. Jocasta implores Oedipus to “Stop–in the name of god, if you love your own life, call off this search!” Why? Offer proof. Cite examples.
3. What insights do you gain about Jocasta and Oedipus from their reactions to the messenger‘s story about the death of Polybus of Corinth? Offer proof. Cite examples.
4. If the stories we hear and the stories we tell shape who we are and who we become, then whose stories are shaping Oedipus’s fate and in what ways? Offer proof. Cite examples. (Think about question #2, and think about: What stories are told to him and what stories does he choose to hear and weave into his life story?)
5. Sophocles reveals much about Greek culture. What do we learn about their culture from the events at the end of the drama? What is the significance? Offer proof. Cite examples.
6. Reflect on the characteristics of a good leader. Do either Oedipus or (now) Creon exhibit the characteristics of a good leader? Offer proof. Cite examples. Revisit your writing from Reflection #2 about what makes an effective leader.
7. What role does **foreshadowing** play in the drama? Offer proof. Cite examples.
8. **Dramatic irony** is prevalent in the drama. Cite examples.
9. What is the effect of the dramatic irony on the audience? Offer proof. Cite examples.
10. What is the effect of Oedipus’s **hubris**? Offer proof. Cite examples.
11. What role does **hamartia** play in the drama? Offer proof. Cite examples.