

Oedipus Rex by Sophocles: Reading Notes Name: _____

"The king is all-powerful, yet there is a plague in his country that he can't stop. [...] The question is, 'Why should people in high school want to read Greek tragedy?' And the answer is that life in high school is tragedy, right? Everybody in high school is a tragic hero: nobody understands you [...] And what they're doing is creating drama, because their life is incredibly dramatic. They're full of energy; they're full of zeal. They don't know much about the way the world works, and they're trying to figure it out. That's exactly the same thing that a dramatist is doing" (David Mamet).

Introduction: Who are you? What do you want?

*"Dear future husband,
Here's a few things / you'll need to know if you wanna be / my one and only all my life. / (Awwwww) / Take me on a date. / I deserve it, babe. / And don't forget the flowers every anniversary. / 'Cause if you'll treat me right / I'll be the perfect wife / buying groceries / buy-buying what you need. / You got that 9 to 5 / but, baby, so do I / So don't be thinking I'll be home and baking apple pies. / I never learned to cook / but I can write a hook. / Sing along with me. / Sing-sing along with me (hey). / You gotta know how to treat me like a lady / even when I'm acting crazy. / Tell me everything's alright" (Meghan Trainor)*

Describe your ideal mate. When/If you marry, what kind of person will your spouse be?			
Characteristics/Traits	Skills/Abilities	Behaviors	Other?

Greek Drama, Tragedy, and The Tragic Hero in Oedipus Rex

Greek Drama, Tragedy, and The Tragic Hero	Examples from Oedipus Rex
Tragedy is a form of drama in which the _____ comes to an _____ end.	
The three classical unities of Greek drama <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unity of _____: one storyline that maintains the interest of the audience 2. Unity of _____: action is limited to a single location. 3. Unity of _____: the story should be limited to at most a single day. 	
The Tragic Hero: A tragic hero: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is larger than life; seems _____ • is neither exceptionally _____ or exceptionally _____ • is often a _____ character • is _____ than the common citizen and is often of _____ birth • is endowed with a _____ _____ and doomed to make a serious error in _____ because of it • will _____ from high _____ • will realize they have made an _____ 	

<p>_____ mistake</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> will meet a _____ / _____ that they face with _____ 	
<p>The tragic wheel</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Hamartia: "_____" Anagnorisis: "_____" Peripeteia: "the _____ from one state of affairs to its _____" Catharsis: "the _____ of emotions by the _____" – a good tragedy will evoke _____ and _____ in the audience. 	
<p>The Chorus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> represent _____ but not necessarily the poet's thoughts. <p>Stasimons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the end of each episode, the other characters usually leave the stage and the chorus dances and sings a stasimon, or choral _____, which usually reflects on the things said and done in the episodes, and puts it into some kind of larger _____. <p>Exodus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the end of the play, the chorus exits singing a processional song which usually offers _____ of _____ related to the actions and _____ of the play. 	
<p>verbal irony: a person says or writes one thing and means another, or uses words to convey a meaning that is the opposite of the literal meaning</p>	
<p>situational irony: a situation in which actions have an effect that is opposite from what was intended, so that the outcome is contrary to what was expected</p>	
<p>dramatic irony: a literary technique, originally used in Greek tragedy, by which the full significance of a character's words or actions are clear to the audience or reader although unknown to the character.</p>	

Freud's Oedipus Complex

What is the *Oedipus Complex*? How does it apply to us? How does it relate to what you listed in the introductory activity about your idea mate?