

## English IV AP Summer Reading Assignment Part Two

TEXT: *The Oedipus Cycle* (ISBN# 978-0-15-602764-9) Translated by Dudley Fitts and Robert Fitzgerald

Read and completely annotate the text. Annotations should include plot development, characters, use of language (figurative language, imagery, etc.), and development of themes. You should highlight as well as make marginal notes throughout the texts. Below you will find specific directions for text to be read for this assignment.

### **THE OEDIPUS CYCLE**

After reading and marking this piece, complete the following journal assignments. Each entry should be **350-400 words typed in MLA format**.

**JOURNAL ASSIGNMENTS** – Respond to THREE of the following prompts. Address one section (ex. *Oedipus Rex*) per journal. You should have a journal for each section of the text. Be sure to include a clear thesis statement for each journal and use at least **3 direct quotes and correct documentation** for each entry.

**Prompt 1:** In great literature, no scene of violence exists for its own sake. Choose a work of literary merit confronts the reader or audience with a scene or scenes of violence. In a well-organized essay, explain how the scene or scenes contribute to the meaning of the complete work. (AP Literature and Composition Exam, 1982)

**Prompt 2:** Choose a work of literary merit in which some of the most events are mental or psychological; for example, awakenings, discoveries, changes in consciousness. In a well-organized essay, describe how the author manages to give these internal events the sense of excitement, suspense, and climax usually associated with external action. (AP Literature and Composition Exam, 1988)

**Prompt 3:** In many works of literature, past events can affect, positively or negatively, the present actions, attitudes, or values of a character. Choose a work of literary merit in which a character must contend with some aspect of the past, either personal or societal. Then write an essay in which you show how the character's relationship to the past contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole. (AP Literature and Composition Exam, 2007)

**Prompt 4:** Many works of literature not readily identified with the mystery or detective story genre nonetheless involve the investigation of a mystery. In these works, the solution to the mystery may be less important than the knowledge gained in the process of its investigation. Choose a work of literary merit in which one or more of the characters confront a mystery. Then write an essay in which you identify the mystery and explain how the investigation illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot. (AP Literature and Composition Exam, 2001)

**Prompt 5:** Critic Roland Barthes has said, “Literature is the question minus the answer.” Choose a work of literary merit and, considering Barthes’ observation, write an essay in which you analyze a central question the work raises and the extent to which it offers any answers. Explain how the author’s treatment of this question affects your understanding of the work as a whole. (AP Literature and Composition Exam, 2004)

**Prompt 6:** One of the strongest human drives seems to be a desire for power. Write an essay in which you discuss how a character in a work of literary merit struggles to free himself or herself from the power of others or seeks to gain power over others. Be sure to demonstrate in your essay how the author uses this power struggle to enhance the meaning of the work. (AP Literature and Composition Exam Form B, 2005)

**Prompt 7:** Works of literature often depict acts of betrayal. Friends and even family may betray a protagonist; main characters may likewise be guilty of treachery or may betray their own values. Select a work of literary merit that includes such acts of betrayal. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze the nature of the betrayal and show how it contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole. (AP Literature and Composition Exam Form B, 2007)

ALL COMPLETED RESPONSE JOURNALS WILL BE DUE BY **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18<sup>th</sup>**, TO [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) by 12:00 a.m. Annotated texts will be due on the first day of class – August 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup>.

**EVALUATION:** Response journals will be graded as one assignment and will count as 2 quiz grades. Spelling, grammar, punctuation, and formatting will all be taken into consideration when assigning a grade to this assignment.