

# ENG 114

**INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH DRAMA**

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# *Oedipus Rex*

- Playwright: Sophocles
- Genre: Tragedy
- First performance: 429 BC
- Original language: Ancient Greek
- Chorus: Theban Elders

# Characters

## 1. Oedipus

Central hero of the tragedy. Son of King Laius and Queen Jocasta. Eventually brought up in Corinth as a son of King Polybius and Queen Merope.

## 2. Jocasta

The widow of King Laius of Thebes, and she is married to Oedipus.

## 3. Creon

Jocasta's brother.

## 4. Tiresias

An old, blind prophet who is consulted regarding the reason for the plague that torments the city of Thebes.

5. Sphinx

Mythical monster whose head was like a woman and the body was of a winged lion.

6. King Polybius and Queen Merope

King and Queen of Corinth, adopted Oedipus.

7. Antigone and Ismene

Daughter of Oedipus and Jocasta.

8. Messenger

An old man.

9. Servant

An old shepherd.