

# Oedipus the accompanying website states that "a

Literature



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

Oedipus was known as the Greek king of Thebes. The story of Oedipus is widely known, mainly due to the famous psychologists Sigmund Freud who studied Oedipus's story and formed the "Oedipus Complex".

In the Ted-Ed video assigned for this module, they depict the play of Oedipus in a cartoon way of people acting it out. They mention that the story of Oedipus is very bizarre. "The Odyssey version of the story focuses on the kingship of Oedipus - he kills his father, king of Thebes; succeeds him and inherits his wife (who his is mother)". (Page 430).

As one can see the story of Oedipus is very unique and the story gets even stranger as it continues. To go into further details of the story of Oedipus, the city of Thebes was affected with a serious outbreak of disease many years after Oedipus rule. It was told to the people of Thebes that this epidemic was caused by the murderer of Laius who was their king. This story of the killing of Laius was portrayed very well in the movie "Oedipus the king". The messenger was telling Oedipus who killed his father (Laius) that the killer was there and born there, little did Oedipus know that it was himself.

Oedipus was very determined to find out who the murderer was and he wanted to find who they were for his own safety as well. Oedipus didn't want to believe the prophet who told him that it was him who was the murderer. An interesting excerpt I found from the accompanying website states that "A messenger (who was the same shepherd to whom the infant Oedipus had been given by the Theban shepherd) came from Corinth to announce the death of Polybus and offer the throne of Corinth to Oedipus.

He told Oedipus, who refused to return to Corinth because of the prophecy that he would marry his mother, that he was not the son of Polybus". Oedipus was scared to return to Corinth because he didn't want his fate (of marrying his mother) to turn true, but as I state later on it's impossible to change your fate. The role of the prophecy that was given to him is very important in many older plays, it mimics the belief system of the people who held fast to the idea that one's fate and destiny could never be avoided no matter what one did. I believe that Oedipus is not so innocent, I think that he could have handled the prophecy better than he did. Instead of trying to change his fate and running away from it, he could have just accepted it instead he ran away and made the situation more complicated. Even though that Oedipus had already met his fate and fulfilled it before the Oedipus the King it has been called "a tragedy of fate" because in Greek philosophy it's shown that one's fate is already pre-determined and that is basically impossible to change it. The Greeks thought one should accept their fate because it cannot be avoided.

As the movie shows Oedipus tries to change his fate but he is unsuccessful. An oracle has confirmed that his fate is that he is going to kill his father and marry his mother. Oedipus tries to do everything he can to change his fate but since his mother and father ordered him killed as an infant, because they received a prophecy stating their child would one day kill them. Who Oedipus believes has raised him as his parents is a misconception. I think this is why it is still called "a tragedy of fate", Oedipus can't change his fate and so many things have happened before he learned of it that it was too late to even try.