**Oedipus Reading Guide pg. 433-444**

***In your notes, keep running lists of:***

* Instances of **irony** (either verbal or dramatic)
* Lines that provide **characterization** of Oedipus
* Words that evoke or contribute to an overall **tone**
* **Riddles** and/or **prophecies** that are given
* References to **fate,** **sight, seeing and knowledge**

**Answer the following questions as we read and/or in your small groups:**

Pg. 433 - 438

* What is the mood of the city at the start of the play? What do you base that on?
* What are the problems that are actually happening in the city?
* How do the people seem to view Oedipus? What words are specifically used to describe him?
* Oedipus’ lines – How does he present himself here? Does he say anything that makes you question him as a ruler?
* Chorus #1 – What is the chorus worried about? What are they asking for? Look at the specific references or metaphors they make, why those? What is the overall tone of your section?

Pg. 438

* Oedipus’ speech – note repeated and/or negative words. What curse does he put on the offender?

Pg. 440-443

* What is ironic about Teiresius? What else do we know about him?
* What does Oedipus reveal about his character here? Is there another potential flaw emerging?
* Look for references to sight, seeing and blindness – how are they becoming important in the context of the play?
* Pull out Teiresius’ telling/prophetic lines…what HAS happened, and what WILL happen according to Teiresius?
* Why do both Teireius and Oedipus get angry and begin insulting one another? Who do you side with in this argument?

Pg. 444 – Chorus

* Who does the chorus side with so far? How do you know and why does this make sense?