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English 001B

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Revised Reading Response #6

Love is Blind, but Hatred is Blinder

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I pray god that the unseen killer, whoever he is, and whether he killed alone or had help, be cursed with a life as evil as he is, a life of utter human deprivation (Sophocles 22).

Quotation
under title
is ITALICS

In Sophocles' tale, *Oedipus the King*, the author unravels a grim tragedy about a king that finds out he is the curse that plagues his city. Oedipus is on a mission to cure his land, and seeks the help of a seer. The seer, Tiresias, tells Oedipus the truth he seeks, but Oedipus is too blind to accept it. On his path to the truth, he finds out that he was born into an incestuous prophecy that only brings darkness. Throughout Sophocles' tragedy, he continuously uses the literary device of irony to show his readers that sometimes the answers we seek are actually inside of us.

Oedipus is told that he must banish or kill the man that killed the former king of Thebes, Laios. Oedipus goes into a rage, and curses the man that killed Laios "with a life as evil as he is, a life of utter human deprivation" (Sophocles 22). The irony is that he, himself, is the killer of Laios. Oedipus cursed himself while not knowing that his curse would ring true and come back to haunt him. Oedipus unknowingly bore incestuous children with the womb of his mother--his wife. He had no idea that he was the son of the King of Thebes who was supposed to be left for dead in the wilderness.

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