Oedipus is popular and well respected. However, in insisting that Creon share the report from the Oracle in front of everyone, he appears slightly arrogant.

He is shocked that the death of Laius has never really been explained. He resolves to act quickly, and get to the bottom of things. It is this type of attribute that makes him such a powerful leader.

He addresses the citizenry, and promises leniency in exchange for information.

*Page 32 – Irony and Foreshadowing.*

The guilty party must be revealed and cast out in order to save Thebes. Oedipus declares the guilty party should “wear the brand of shame.” He also claims that he himself should suffer if he – in any inadvertent way – contributed to the current state of affairs. *This is ironic, and foreshadows his connection to the deed.*

He vows to fight for justice for the deceased King “…as I would fight/ For my own father” (lines 263-265).

Teiresias: He is a blind prophet, known to be very wise. He is called upon to help. He knows the truth of the situation, and it is a great burden for him: *“…when wisdom brings no profit/To be wise is to suffer.”* Profit = something worthwhile or good.

Oedipus is *decisive and confident.* These are positive qualities. However, he can also be *arrogant and rash.* These are his character flaws, and they come to light as we see him deal with Teiresias. When the prophet is not immediately forthcoming with information, Oedipus resorts to threats and insults. He challenges the old man because he doesn’t get his own way.