# Sophocles and Oedipus Rex

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# Sophocles: Life and Works

# Ancient Greek playwright

## Life of Sophocles

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Sophocles was born around 496 BCE in Athens. He wrote over 120 plays but only seven complete ones survive today.

## Famous Works

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Besides "Oedipus Rex," Sophocles wrote "Antigone" and "Electra." His plays often show people facing difficult choices and tragic fates.

## Oedipus Rex Story

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This famous tragedy tells about a king who unknowingly kills his father and marries his mother, fulfilling a terrible prophecy.

## Themes in Oedipus Rex

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The play explores fate versus free will, blindness versus sight, and the search for truth, even when truth brings pain.

# Major achievements



### Playwright of Ancient Greece

Sophocles was one of the most famous writers in ancient Greece who created many important plays that people still enjoy today.



### "Oedipus Rex" Masterpiece

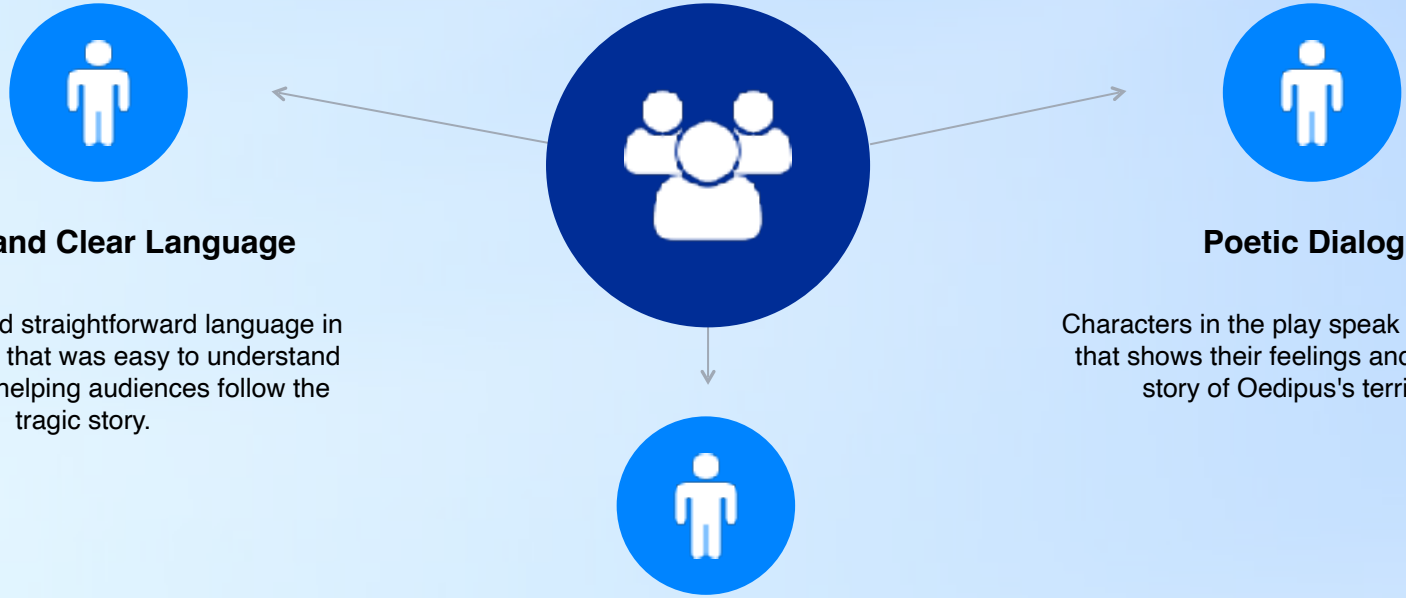
His play "Oedipus Rex" is considered one of the greatest stories ever written, showing a king who learns a terrible truth about himself.



### Theatrical Innovations

Sophocles added a third actor to plays, allowing more complex stories. He also improved how plays looked on stage with better backgrounds.

# Writing style



### Simple and Clear Language

Sophocles used straightforward language in "Oedipus Rex" that was easy to understand yet powerful, helping audiences follow the tragic story.

### Poetic Dialogue

Characters in the play speak in a poetic way that shows their feelings and helps tell the story of Oedipus's terrible fate.

### Strong Emotional Expression

Sophocles wrote dialogue that clearly shows characters' pain, fear, and sadness, making the audience feel connected to Oedipus's tragic journey.

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# Oedipus Rex: Plot Overview

# Story basics

## The Myth of Oedipus

The story follows a man who unknowingly kills his father and marries his mother, fulfilling a terrible prophecy despite trying to avoid it.

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## Main Characters

Oedipus is the king of Thebes. Jocasta is his wife and mother. Tiresias is a blind prophet who reveals the truth.

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## Key Plot Points

Oedipus searches for the killer of the former king. He discovers he himself is the murderer and that Jocasta is his mother.

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# Main characters

Oedipus is the main character who unknowingly kills his father and marries his mother, fulfilling a terrible prophecy.

**Oedipus, the Tragic King**

Jocasta is Oedipus's wife and mother. She hangs herself after discovering the truth about their relationship.

**Jocasta, Queen of Thebes**

Creon is Jocasta's brother who becomes ruler of Thebes. He brings news from the oracle and later supports Oedipus.

**Creon, Brother of Jocasta**

Tiresias is a blind prophet who knows the truth about Oedipus's past. He reluctantly reveals the terrible secret.

**Tiresias, the Blind Prophet**

# Important events

### Oedipus Learns His Fate

Oedipus visits the Oracle at Delphi and learns he will kill his father and marry his mother, causing him to flee his home.



### The Murder at Crossroads

Oedipus encounters and kills an older man at a crossroads, not knowing this man is King Laius, his real father.



### Solving the Sphinx's Riddle

Oedipus defeats the Sphinx by solving her riddle, saving Thebes from the monster and becoming their new king.



### Marriage to Jocasta

As a reward for saving Thebes, Oedipus marries Queen Jocasta, unaware she is actually his biological mother.



# Thanks!