

Oedipus Rex - Vocabulary

Anarchist - one who believes in no government; one who seeks chaos

Circumspect - cautious, careful

Covenant - a contract between God and man

Compunction - guilt

Didactic - instructive

Dirge - a sad, doleful song

Discern - to perceive

Dramatic Irony - occurs when the audience knows more than the speaker

Dubious - of doubtful or suspect quality

Epithet - a descriptive word; a name that renames someone

Filch - to steal

Finite - not eternal

Folly - foolishness

Genteel - well-mannered; from the upper classes

Hamartia - a tragic flaw

Hierarchy - a level or pecking order

Hubris - excessive pride

Inept - not skillful

Intuitive - understood instinctively

Laurel - emblem of victory

Mettle - strong character; courage

Olive branch - emblem of peace

Pestilent - diseased; plagued

Progeny - offspring

Purgation - cleansing through elimination of fluid (or emotion)

Malevolence - malignant ill will; malice

Resolute - steadfastly determined and unwavering

Sacrilege - against established religious practices

Scruple - a moral misgiving

Spawn - to reproduce, to breed

Succor - aid, comfort

Suppliant - one who asks for something humbly and earnestly

Unscathed - not harmed, hurt, or cut

Wanton - wildly lewd