THEBES

King Laius m. Queen Jocasta

Baby son (Oedipus)

Oedipus m. Queen Jocasta



CORINTH

King Polybus m. Queen Merope

adopted

Oedipus

t given to servant to shepherd

(parents want him dead) (to save him)

O. heard prophecy, ran away, and

ended up back in Thebes

*Important Terms*

tragic hero: a character of nobility or high stature who has a tragic flaw that brings about his or her downfall.

paradox: a seemingly contradictory statement that actually makes sense

miasma: pollution caused by certain sins or behaviors, needs to be cleansed through ritual

hamartia: tragic flaw

hubris: excessive pride (a type of tragic flaw)

catharsis: a cleansing or purging of emotion (audience experiences this)

dramatic irony: contrast between what a character knows and what the audience knows