

JACT Greek Summer School: Online Reading Course, July 2020

Sophocles' *Oedipus the King*

Presented by Rowena Hewes and Edmund Lewis

At Bryanston, Advanced groups – that is to say, all groups made up of students working at a level beyond GCSE – spend most of their class time reading texts. Though the method adopted varies from tutor to tutor, typically students are asked to prepare a certain number of lines in advance and class time is then devoted to going through those lines.

To try to reproduce part of that experience, two summer school tutors, Rowena and Edmund, have produced an online course devoted to reading the most exciting 201 lines of Sophocles' masterpiece *Oedipus the King*, those leading up to and including the terrible moment when (spoiler alert!) Oedipus realises he has married his own mother and killed his own father.

The idea behind the course is this: use the PDF of the text with vocabulary and commentary produced by Geoffrey Steadman to prepare your own translation of the lines to be covered in each episode, then play the relevant video to hear Rowena and Edmund translate the lines and discuss points of grammatical interest or difficulty.

The videos are approximately 7 mins long each. Why not aim to do 2 a day (approximately 30 lines), and so read all 201 lines in a week?

To get maximum benefit from the process, try to learn as much of the vocabulary and grammar in context as possible, and come back to each passage a few days later to check that you can still translate it. If you complete the course, not only will you have read one of the highlights of Greek literature, but your Greek language skills will have improved enormously!

Episode 1: lines 950-962

Episode 2: lines 963-975

Episode 3: lines 976-988

Episode 4: lines 989-1001

Episode 5: lines 1002-1016

Episode 6: lines 1017-1028

Episode 7: lines 1029-1046

Episode 8: lines 1047-1059

Episode 9: lines 1060-1072

Episode 10: lines 1073-1085

(We then skip a choral ode)

Episode 11: lines 1121-1130

Episode 12: lines 1131-1151

Episode 13: lines 1152-1163

Episode 14: lines 1164-1173

Episode 15: lines 1174-1185

Many thanks indeed to Geoffrey Steadman for creating his text and commentary and allowing others to make use of it for non-commercial purposes. You can find his full commentary on the *Oedipus* and many other commentaries on his website. You can also buy physical copies on Amazon.

<https://geoffreysteadman.com/sophocles/>

PS there are a very small number of differences between the text Steadman uses and the one we use in our PowerPoints. The only ones worth noting are:

	Steadman	Rowena and Edmund
957	σημάντωρ	σημήνας
964	τι	τις
1130	πω	που
1134	τῷ Κιθαιρῶνος τόπῳ	τὸν Κιθαιρῶνος τόπον