

Name _____

Period _____

Annotation: the act of making notes in/on a text as you read so that it shows your critical thinking and analysis of the text. Think of annotation as writing notes that provide active interaction with a text while making your thinking obvious to an outside observer.

DIRECTIONS: Read, annotate, and then answer the questions that follow the passage. Your annotations should take notice of diction, imagery, figurative language, syntax, details, and anything else you happen to see in the passage. Remember, more is more!

Priest:

Oh Oedipus, king of the land, our greatest power!

You see us before you, men of all ages
clinging to your altars. here are boys,
still too weak to fly from the next,
and here are the old, bowed down with the years,
the holy ones -- a priest of Zeus myself -- and here
the picked, unmarried men, the young hope of Thebes.
And all the rest, your great family gathers now,
branches wreathed, massing in the square,
kneeling before the two temples of queen Athena
or the river-shrine where the embers glow and die
and Apollo sees the future in the ashes. Our city --
look around you, see with your own eyes --
our ship pitches wildly, cannot lift her head
from the depths, the red waves of death . . .
Thebes is dying. A blight on the fresh crops
and the rich pastures, cattle sicken and die,
and the women die in labor, children stillborn,
and the plague, the fiery god of fever hurls down
on the city, his lightning slashing through us --
raging plague in all its vengeance, devastating
the house of Cadmus! And Black Death luxuriates
in the raw, wailing miseries of Thebes.
Now we pray to you. You cannot equal the gods,

your children know that, bending at your altar.
But we do rate you first of men,
both in the common crises of our lives
and face-to-face encounters with the gods.
You freed us from the Sphinx; you came to Thebes
and cut us loose from the bloody tribute we had paid
that harsh, brutal singer. We taught you nothing,
no skill, no extra knowledge, still you triumphed.
A god was with you, so they say, and we believe it --
you lifted up our lives. So now again . . .
Act now -- we beg you, best of men, raise up our city!
Act, defend yourself, your former glory!
your country calls you savior now
for your zeal, your action years ago.
Never let us remember of your reign:
you helped us stand, only to fall once more.

SUMMARIZE to passage above in 1-2 sentences:

How is Oedipus being characterized here? How do you know?

What words, images, details, figurative language, punctuation, etc. help contribute to meaning here? List two that you found particularly interesting and explain the significance of each (Remember to be specific here!)

1.

2.