

**THANKS  
ALOT!**

September 2014



# Home Instruction Teens

Illustration by Zachery Monsanto (Queens)

# **HIT / HI KIDS**

## **Home Instruction Teens Magazine**

### **Home Instruction Kids Magazine**

*Welcome back to another year of HIT MAGAZINE and HI KIDS MAGAZINE!*

*These magazines are written by Home Instruction students for Home Instruction students. They provide an opportunity for students to communicate and share ideas.*

All students are invited to participate in the production of these magazines.



**HI KIDS is for elementary students and**

**HIT is for secondary students.**

**You don't have to be a great writer to be involved.**

**There are all kinds of things that will help in the production of each issue.**

## You can send us:



photography

puzzles

jokes

riddles

poems

stories

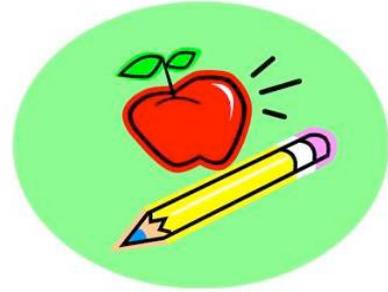
movie reviews

book reviews

video game reviews

sports reviews

whatever you would like to share.



*We need staff members who would like to work at home helping to put the magazines together every month. We will ask you to do a little typing and to feel free to share any ideas you have to improve our magazines. Frequently we are able to arrange for our secondary students to get school credit for their work on the magazine. If you would like more information about becoming a staff member, email us at:*

**[HITMAGAZINE@AOL.COM](mailto:HITMAGAZINE@AOL.COM)**

or

**[HIKIDSMAG@AOL.COM](mailto:HIKIDSMAG@AOL.COM)**

# **WANTED: EDITOR-in-CHIEF**

## **& Staff EDITORS**

Please contact us ASAP if you're interested in these positions. Requirements include: basic knowledge and interest in learning about basic layout/design using Microsoft Word, editing other students submissions, some typing, ability to work under tight deadlines and creativity.



If interested, please e-mail us at: [HITMAGAZINE@AOL.COM](mailto:HITMAGAZINE@AOL.COM)

# **BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL**

If you are graduating in June, you may be thinking about taking the SAT.

For information, got to:

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**We need an editor for this column.**

**Are you a junior or senior  
in high school?**

**Would you be interested in being  
responsible for a column on “life  
in junior and senior year” and  
“life after high school”?**

**We have lots of material and  
ideas to help you.**

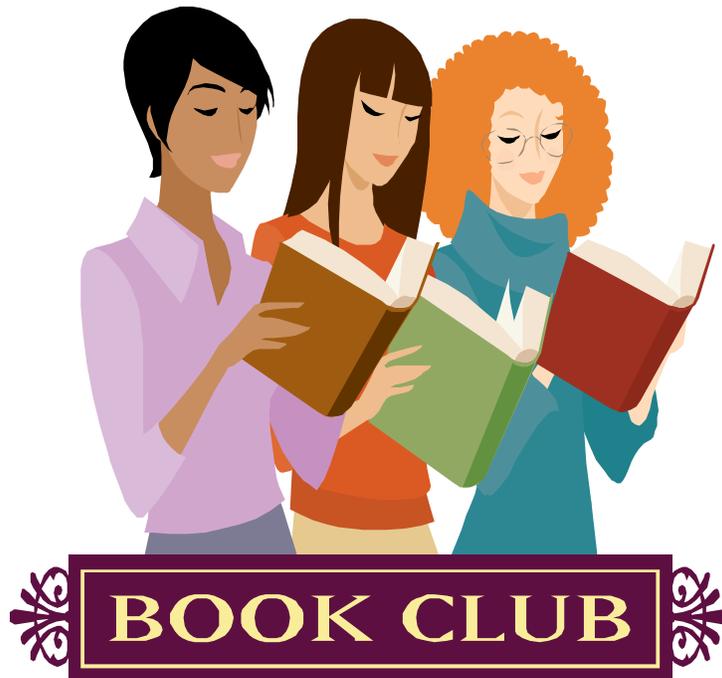
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## We're Going Back To School



## **Oedipus the King**

**By Manuela Castedo (Grade 9, Queens)**

**Teacher: Robert Cipriani**

From the dawn of time, mankind has believed that his fate was pre-determined and that nothing he could do could change his destiny; which was already set in stone. Therefore, we must ask the question is it possible to escape one's fate? Is fate something more, could it be that fate really is a series of choices we make from birth until our death that determine the outcome of our lives? Yes fate is something more; it is a series of choices we make in life which lead us to our ultimate destiny. In Oedipus the King by Sophocles, most readers would say that Oedipus was influenced by the prophecy set forth by what he learned from the oracle. By contrary, Oedipus is a man and man has free will to make decisions he can accept or reject the prophecy it was Oedipus' human characteristics that was most responsible for the tragedies he caused by his own actions rather than by prophecies. The events that ensued which led him down the path to his ultimate fate had nothing to do with what was prophesized rather it was his own behavior.

Throughout the play you notice how Oedipus cannot ever control his anger. If someone were to deliver bad news that he did not want to hear, he would fly into a rage becoming irrational. Oedipus's insecurity leads him to be paranoid and suspicious of everyone's actions, even if those actions are in Oedipus' best interest. An example of this is when Kreon recommended the prophet Tiresias to come and speak to Oedipus about what can be done to remove the awful plague from the city. Tiresias did not want to speak to Oedipus since he realizes it would not be worth it since Oedipus would not listen to the truth. Oedipus was an unmovable object who would not listen to the words the "wise" prophet would speak. He pressured the blind prophet into telling him who killed Laios so much that it was revealed that the killer was indeed Oedipus. Oedipus stated, "I'll rage, prophet, I'll give you all my anger."(Lines 66) But Tiresias did not bother to leave this remark unnoticed as he quickly replied back. In lines 473-482 it shows how Tiresias was tired of all the pressure so he said, "Then obey your own words, obey/ the curse everyone heard break from your own lips:/ Never speak again to these men of Thebes,/ Never speak gain to me./ you, it's/you./ what plagues the city is you./

the plague is you.” If Oedipus did not want to be then seen as a murderer, he should not have irritated Tiresias to a point where he would have spilled the truth. He should have been able to control himself and found a better way to get the information out of him. Now he would be seen as a king who could not control his anger and the reason there was a plague in Thebes. The choices he made caused his learning of the reason for the plague which had its positive and negative consequences.

Some may say that those who you hurt the most in your life, in the end you end up needing them. The relationship between Oedipus and Kreon was bipolar in the sense that in the beginning Oedipus hated Kreon and thought he wanted the throne. Luckily for Oedipus, Kreon did not let Oedipus’ false statements influence him. On page 47 lines 702-706 Oedipus claims many false statements towards Kreon. The text states, “You here? Murderer!/ You dare come here, to my palace, when it's clear/ you've been plotting to murder me and seize the throne of/ Thebes?/ You're the bandit, you're the killer.” Oedipus was quick to accuse Kreon of being a murderer, wanting to seize the throne, a bandit, and a killer. He never thought of calming himself down and thinking rationally since after all in the beginning (before Oedipus was king of Thebes) Kreon gave him the throne as a thank-you gift for figuring out the Sphinx’s riddle, so Kreon could have not been angry after being the king of Thebes. Although, Oedipus has jealousy of Kreon, Kreon never returns that jealousy to Oedipus. In the end when Oedipus is in despair, Kreon cares for him and even fulfills his last requests. In page 89 lines 1858 to 1864 Oedipus states, “I beg you, Kreon, if you love the gods,/ grant me what I ask./ I have been vile to you, worse than vile./ I have hurt you, terribly, and yet/ you have treated me with kindness, with nobility./ You have calmed my fear, you did not turn away from me./ Do I what I ask, Do it for yourself, not for me.” Kreon did not let Oedipus’ harsh words hurt him greatly since he still granted Oedipus’ last desires. Oedipus should have rethought his previous actions and should have been filled with guilt because in the end Kreon was there for him. The choices Oedipus made impacted the people’s action towards him, luckily in this case in a positive matter.

Perhaps the clearest indication that fate did not play a role in Oedipus’ demise is the realization that no one is to blame but himself for all that has happened. On the road to his final destiny Oedipus would blame the god Apollo since Apollo decides the prophecy destined for each person. Oedipus himself thought Apollo pronounced such a terrible fate upon him. But

Oedipus comes to realize that no one is to blame but himself because he comes to terms with his own demon. *He* killed his father with his own hands and *he* slept with his mother, no one else but *him*. In Lines 1728-1730 he says, “What you did was horrible,/ but how could you quench the fire of your eyes,/ what demon lifted your hands?” The leader of the Chorus thought that a demon made Oedipus ripe out his eyes. Little did he know, it was Oedipus himself due to an in-the-moment reaction during a deeply emotional moment. But in Lines 1731-1738 Oedipus cried out, “Apollo Apollo/ it was Apollo, always Apollo,/who brought each of my agonies to birth,/ but I,/ nobody else, I,/ I raised these two hands of mine, held them above my head,/ and plunged them down,/ I stabbed out these eyes./ Why should I have eyes? Why,/ when nothing I saw worth seeing?/ Nothing.” Out of rage, Oedipus ripped out his eyeballs from their sockets due to his own choice to do so. He was at war for himself but in the end he is the only one to blame.

Although some may say faith cannot be escaped instead it is the choices we make that lead us to our fate, others may say one cannot escape fate because fate is already chosen out for us. Fate is what it is because it was chosen out for us since the beginning and it cannot be changed. Fate depends on your belief system. In Oedipus’ time, people believed that the god Apollo was the one who decided the prophecies set for each person. Gods, in the time of Sophocles wrote Oedipus, the belief was that gods had more power over the lives of people than the person themselves. Your life was doomed or saved by what the oracle proclaimed. Oedipus’ fate was sealed by the prophecy of the oracle which proclaimed, “Long ago, Apollo told me I was doomed to sleep with my/ mother/ and spill my father’s blood, murder him/ with these two hands of mine.”( 1254-1257). Due to this unfortunate prophecy, Oedipus’ future was doomed. If one were to believe this that no matter what choices we make our destiny has been predetermined and therefore it does not matter what we think or what we choose, fate will find us. If we all believed that what was written for us as going to happen, then why do we choose things? Why do we not just do EXACTLY what we are destined to do? Fate is not set in stone so we can change it by making decisions; it is up to us to make good or bad decisions. But Oedipus could have changed his fate by making a series of choices and he did make those, “And after I heard all this, I felt Corinth,/ measuring my progress by the stars, searching for a place/ where I would never see those words, those dreadful predi-/tions/ come true...”(1035-1039). Oedipus tried to escape by running away from it. By making this choice, he does not escape anything but instead changed his life. Maybe the whole prophecy said he would kill his father in a banquet but

now because he ran away he would end up killing his biological father in the crossroads. The choices we make change our fate, after all fate can be changed.

In conclusion, fate can be escaped because it is the choices we make that guide us to our destiny. We cannot just rely on the thought that our destiny will be one thing and that no matter what decisions we make in life; it will still be the same fate. Choices we make in our everyday lives change the outcome of our day, showing how fate can change depending on the choices we make. Whether Oedipus was influenced or not with the prophecy given by the oracle, he still made the choices he makes that led him to his fate. He himself realized that the choices he made were wrong. An example of this was when he asked for forgiveness from Kreon, the oracle did not say he was going to do this. This was an example of his own choice since he himself realized he made bad choices. To those who would claim that fate controls everything, that there is a predestination that controls our lives, there would have to be an entity that would have had to preprogram all of this and since none can be proven that they exist, we have to rely on experience as the best teacher. Your choices are your own and the way they turn out weren't pre-determined. There can be many reasons why choice A would lead to outcome B but it has nothing to do with fate. There is no fixed point since fate does not exist.



## The Many Faces of Shapeshifting

Narissa Persaud

Teacher: Gene Sullivan

The ability of a human, being able to shapeshift is a deviant yet fascinating belief of mine. Imagine having the capability to transform into someone or something beyond comprehension, whether physically or spiritually. Although there are many types of shapeshifting, the ones that appeal to me most are humans turning into animals, objects and even other people.

Animals hold a very special place in my heart from the smallest of mice to the largest of sharks. The idea of being morphed into one captivates me. Inheriting their strength and proficiency combined with human qualities creates something extraordinary and magical, once you know how to control it. A whole new world of discoveries and understanding awaits.

I believe some objects possess a lot of meaning, such as a wedding ring, or something as simple as a chair. Visualize a human granted the power to become a certain object. It can be an act of innocence but could easily deceive you in a blink of an eye. Usually a deed of trickery, better aware of your surroundings would be essential.

I suppose there is a part of everyone who at some point would rather be somebody completely different than themselves with the thought of escaping their worries. The concept of people changing into another person seems like an interesting event. However this is not always the case, say someone was to betray you or harm you in some way. The competency to alter your appearance and do damage is above talking it out and resolving the matter. Revenge is not a force to be reckoned with.

Evidently shapeshifting is quite remarkable and bizarre at the same time. It can mess with your mind when you least expect it, making you question what's real and what's not. Nevertheless it does have its benefits, secrets of the unknown are possibly revealed. Know not to abuse this power for it does have consequences.

The Elements Family: of Literary

other members on  
Tone, Irony, etc...



By Brandon Boodoosingh (Queens)

Teacher: Gregg Benoff

12.3.13

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**Name of Student** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

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**This document is to be sent to and retained by the school.**