

□ □ Robert Choi

March 7, 1997 □ □ English 12E

Mrs. Ziminski □ □ □ □ □ □ The Mysteries of Fate □ □ □ Among the fir

st thing a historian discovers in his study of early civilization are records of □ □ people's belief, or faith, in powers greater than themselves, and their desire to understand what causes □ □ these powers to act. People everywhere wonder about the marvelous things in the sky and on the earth. □ □ What makes the rain? How do the plants and animals live and grow and die? Why are some people lucky □ □ and others unlucky? Some believe in free will while others believe in fate or destiny. In the play Oedipus □ □ the King by Sophocles, Oedipus was a true victim of fate. □ □ □ □ Gods and goddesses were believed to be responsible for the wonders of science, and the vagaries □ □ of human nature; therefore, according to the facts of this story, Oedipus was a true victim of fate for □ □ several reasons. Laius and Jocasta, the childless king and queen of Thebes, were told by the god Apollo □ □ that their son would kill his father and marry his mother (page 56). A son was born to them, and they □ □ tried to make sure that the prophecy would not come true. They drove a metal pin through the infants □ □ ankles and gave it to a shepherd, with instructions to leave it to die. The shepherd pitied the little infant □ □ so he gave the child to another shepherd. This shepherd gave the baby to a childless king and queen of □ □ Corinth, Polybus and Merope. This royal couple named the boy Oedipus, which in its Greek form □ □ Oidipous means "swollen foot." Oedipus was brought up believing that Polybus and Merope were his real □ □ parents, and Laius and Jocasta believed that their child was dead and the prophecy of Apollo was false. □ □ Many years later, he was told by a drunk man at a banquet that he was not a true heir of Polybus □ □ (page 55). He then went to the oracle of Apollo, to ask the god who his real parents were. All he was told □ □ was that he would kill his father and marry his mother (page 56). He resolved never to return to Corinth, □ □ to Polybus and Merope, and started out to make a new life for himself elsewhere. He came to a place □ □ where three main roads met, and in the narrow place was ordered off the road and then attacked by the □ □ driver of a chariot in which an old man was riding. A fight started, and Oedipus, in self-defense, killed □ □ the old man and his attendants. The old man in the chariot was Laius, king of Thebes, and the father of □ □ Oedipus. Although Oedipus had not known it, he had killed his father and the first half of the prophecy □ □ of Apollo was fulfilled. Oedipus continued on his way and arrived at Thebes. He solved a riddle which □ □ saved the city from the sphinx. He became the king of Thebes, and then married a lady by the name of □ □ Jocasta. The prophecy of Apollo was now completely fulfilled. Oedipus having no knowledge of Apollo's □ □ prophecy being true, cursed the individual who killed Laius to be banished from Thebes forever. After □ □ putting two and two together, it was he, Oedipus, who had killed Laius, his own father. He did not go □ □ back on his word, and like a man, he dethroned himself as king, and banished himself from Thebes. Once □ □ again, he was destined to be dethroned and banished. □ □ □ Comparing my life with Oedipus', I've discovered a great deal about free choice and destiny. I □ □ learned that one day, you can be the richest person alive, yet be the poorest person the next day and vice □ □ versa. In life, anything can happen, whether it is expected or unexpected. That is when fate overrides and □ □ overpowers free will. Free will is a choice that an individual decides to do or accomplish. Destiny or fate □ □ is what just happens. No one knows when or how something will happen, but it will. Laius and Jocasta □ □ heard that their child will kill the father and marry the mother. Even after abandoning the baby and □ □ believing that he was dead, the prophecy was destined and somehow came true. With me getting caught □ □ for shoplifting was also destined. The voices I heard in my head was a warning, and I chose to ignore it □ □ but it was destined to happen. The day our lives end, we don't choose where we will go, we, I believe, are □ □ destined to be sent where we belong. □ □ □ In the play Oedipus the King by Sophocles, Oedipus was a true victim of fate. Like Oedipus, □ □ there was a time in my life when I too, felt like a victim of fate. The Greeks had an orderly explanation of □ □ the creation of the world. From this Greek tragedy, I learned more about their manners, customs and □ □ ideals. I've grown to appreciate their love of beauty, their joy and laughter, as well as the sorrows they □ □ experienced in life. I also realized how great of power destiny and fate have over free will. The moral of □ □ this play I learned is that if it's destined, it will sooner or later happen! □ □ -----

-----robert choi march english ziminski mysteries fate among first thing

historian discovers study early civilization records people belief faith powers greater than themselves their desire understand what causes these power
Essay, essays, term paper, term paper, term papers, term papers, book reports, study, college, thesis, dissertation, test answers, free research, book research, study help, download essay, download term papers