

Name _____

Ironic Fate Answer Key

Reflection Question Guidance

1. Dramatic irony intensifies tragedy: the audience anticipates disaster as Oedipus walks blindly into it.
2. His insistence on uncovering truth transforms irony into inevitability—his very strength seals his fate.
3. Irony highlights the tension between fate (preordained prophecy) and free will (Oedipus's choices).
4. Yes: because the audience feels helpless, knowing the outcome while Oedipus remains in denial, which magnifies pity and fear—the goals of tragedy.

Teacher Notes:

- Stress that **dramatic irony is central to Greek tragedy**, as the audience's foreknowledge creates emotional engagement.
- Encourage students to look beyond "what happens" and focus on **why irony intensifies tragedy**.
- Accept thoughtful student answers as long as they link Oedipus's words to the play's themes of fate, blindness, and truth.