**Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Ode 1**

**Strophe 1**

The Delphic stone of prophecies

Remembers ancient regicide

And a still bloody hand.

That killer’s hour of flight has come

He must be stronger than riderless

Coursers of untiring wind,

For the son of Zeus armed with his father’s thunder

Leaps in lightning after him;

And the furies follow him, the sad Furies.

* Who is the “he” and “him” of this passage?
* Summarize this passage. What is the Chorus saying here?

**Antistrophe 1**

Holy Parnasus’ peak of snow

Flashes and blinds that secret man,

That all shall hunt him down;

Though he may roam the forest shade

Like a bull gone wild from pasture

To rage through glooms of stone.

Doom comes down on him; flight will not avail him;

For the world’s heart call shim desolate,

And the immortal Furies follow, forever follow.

* What does the chorus say will happen to “that secret man”? Who do you think the “secret man” is?

**Strophe 2**

But now a wilder thing is heard

From the old man skilled at hearing Fate in the wingbeat of a bird.

Bewildered as a blown bird, my soul hovers and cannot find

Foothold in this debate, or any reason or rest of mind.

But no man ever brought—none can bring

Proof of strife between Thebes’ royal house

Labdacus’ line, and the son of Polybus;

And never until now has any man brought word

Of Lauis’ dark death staining Oedipus the King.

* Who is the “old man skilled at hearing Fate…”?
* Why does the chorus feel “bewildered as a blown bird”?
* What effect does this simile have on the passage?
* What two conflicts does the chorus refer to in the last 5 lines of this stanza?

**Antistrophe 2**

Divine Zeus and Apollo hold

Perfect intelligence alone of all tales ever told;

And well though this diviner works, he works in his own night;

No man can judge that rough unknown or trust in second sight,

For wisdom changes hands among the wise.

Shall I believe my great lord criminal

At a raging word that that a blind old man let fall?

I saw him, when the carrion woman face him of old

Prove his heroic mind! These evil words are lies.

* How do Zeus and Apollo hold “perfect intelligence…of all tales ever told”?
* Why does the chorus say that Tiersias (the diviner) “works in his own night”? What do you think this means?
* What does the chorus decide about what Tiersias has said? What two pieces of logic bring them to that conclusion?