



# The three Theban plays

*Sophocles*

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Rich in sex and violence, the plays follow the tragic downfall of King Oedipus, a man who mistakenly believes he can control his own destiny. In *Oedipus the King*, we watch as the hero learns the truth about his past, including his murder of his father, Laius, and marriage to his mother, Jocasta. Written just before the death of **Sophocles**, *Oedipus at Colonus* features a more subdued tone as the blind, exiled king reflects on his passing from this world. *Antigone*, the earliest written of the three, presents the powerful story of the iron-willed daughter of Oedipus as she takes a fatal stand against her uncle Creon, the new ruler of Thebes. Favoring her own moral code to the dictates of an unjust ruler, Antigone becomes the first heroine in Western literature and a model of civil disobedience.

**Pedro de Blas** holds degrees in law and classics and has taught Greek at Columbia University and the CUNY Latin/Greek Institute. He has acted in several productions of Greek tragedy in the original and he is the author of the introduction and notes to *Essential Dialogues of Plato*, also published by Barnes & Noble Classics.

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