**Samples of cm stretching in *Oedipus Rex***

**Sample 1**

* ***#8 archetypal filter***
* ***#5 theme it up***
* ***#7 word isolation***

**CD: “You give us hope” (Priest of Zeus speaking to King Oedipus, line 951)**

**CMs:** While Oedipus inspires and protects his Theban subjects with demonstrations of power and wisdom, his quest for truth, (regardless of the consequences of truth), likewise “inspires” readers and enables likeminded respect. If not so, the Priest of Zeus would never have petitioned him to save Thebes. Oedipus is an icon and archetype of truth-seeking—the human quest for truth and knowledge is embodied in the Theban king. One’s reading experience, in the case of *Oedipus Rex* is a vicarious search for and arrival at the stirring reality of man’s futility against fate, a realization that comes at Oedipus‘s expense. How then can readers judge him who is their tragic advocate? While the aforementioned “realization” is chilling, even repulsive, Oedipus prolongs our “hope” by refusing to accept that fact; he “protects” readers’ self-perceptions that they are agents who control their respective destinies. Therefore, Oedipus draws forth readers’ sentiments by inspiring and protecting them as well as the Thebans.

**Sample 2**

* ***#1 audience response***
* ***#4 tone***
* ***#3 symbolism***
* ***#2 universal connections***
* ***#6 multiple interpretations of evidence***

**CD: “They are dying, the old oracles sent to Laius, now our masters strike them off the rolls. Nowhere Apollo's golden glory now -- the gods, the gods go down.” (The Chorus speaking, lines 3, 4)**

**CMs:** One possible interpretation for the somber words of the Chorus rests in the concept of old and dying oracles, prophets that are vessels of the will of the Gods are, after all, mere mortals who come and go upon the earth to perform as mouthpieces for the dieties; however, perhaps even more important is the understanding that with the passing of the oracles, so is the passing of human faith in the gods. The idea of “striking” the oracles off the rolls is more than lining out names of deceased prophets—it is the rejection of the gods among men. After all, the oracles symbolize not only the words of the gods but also the importance of those words in guiding human life and expecting human obedience, thus ensuring the gods always be placed above the will and wisdom of man. Greek audiences understood clearly their position as underlings to deity, and if man allows the “gods [to] go down,” then he must be prepared for the consequences of his pride. Though the tone imparted by the Chorus’ lament is overwhelmingly solemn and elegiac as evidenced by their observations of the deaths of oracles, there resonates a sense of warning. If the gods go down, what then will be the state of man? Where can they turn for divine guidance or even intervention? Universally, the relationship and delicate balance between man and god is timeless—even modern readers can relate to the ebb and flow of religious influence in human society. All cultures continually explore that sacred and complex relationship.