

## **PART 1: READ THE STORY OF HOW OEDIPUS BECAME KING OF THEBES**

A prince named Oedipus, from the city of Corinth, was traveling through the Greek countryside when he approached the city of Thebes. The road to the city was blocked by a monster called the Sphinx. She had the body of a lion, wings of an eagle, and the head of a woman. She lay crouched on top of a rock, stopping all travelers to ask them a riddle.

Any traveler who solved the riddle could pass; but those who answered incorrectly were killed. When Oedipus approached the Sphinx, no one had solved the puzzle. And many Thebians had been killed trying to leave or come into the city.

Oedipus was ready for the challenge and The Sphinx was waiting for its next victim.

"What goes on four legs in the morning, two in the afternoon and three in the evening?" asked The Sphinx.

Oedipus thought a moment. Then he replied "The answer is Man. He crawls on all fours as a baby, then walks on two feet as an adult, and then walks with a cane in old age."

The Sphinx was so angry that Oedipus had solved her riddle that she threw herself off the rock and died.

The people of Thebes showed their appreciation by making Oedipus king.

## **PART 2: DRAW A PICTURE OF THE SPHINX**

### **PART THREE: SOLVE SOME MORE RIDDLES & EXPLAIN YOUR ANSWER**

ANSWERS: Teeth, A Fish, Fear, Darkness, Night & Day, An Egg, A River, Time, Footsteps, A Hole

- 1) "The bigger I get, the less there is. What am I?"
  
- 2) "What is something where the more you take, the more you leave behind?"
  
- 3) "I am always running, never walking. Sometimes babbling, never talking. What am I?"
  
- 4) "I make you weak at the worst of all times. I keep you safe, I keep you fine.  
I make your hands sweat, and your heart grow cold, I visit the weak, but seldom the bold. What am I?"
  
- 5) "A box without treasure, key or lid. Yet golden treasure inside is hid. What is it?"
  
- 6) "Thirty white horses on a red hill, First they chomp, then they stomp  
Then they stand still. What are they?"
  
- 7) "Alive without breath as cold as death;  
Never thirsty ever drinking, all in mail never clinking. What am I?"
  
- 8) "This thing all things devours: birds, beasts, trees, flowers;  
gnaws iron, bites steel; grinds hard stones to meal;  
slays king, ruins town, and beats high mountain down. What is this thing?"
  
- 9) "It cannot be seen. Cannot be felt. Cannot be heard. Cannot be smelt.  
It lies behind stars and under hills and empty holes it fills. It comes first and follows after.  
Ends life and kills laughter. What is it?"
  
- 10) There are two sisters: One gives birth to the other, And the other, in turn, gives birth to the first.

**PART 4: NOW, write your own riddle! And it should RHYME!!!**