SUGGESTIONS FOR A READING JOURNAL

Aeschylus' *Oresteia*

“The Libation Bearers”

List and describe briefly the main characters in this 2nd play:

*Orestes, Pylades, Electra, Clytemnestra, Cilissa, Aegisthus*

**Part I Pages 177- 213**

1. The action starts at the grave of Agamemnon. What causes Electra to realize the stranger she meets is her brother?

2. On pg 191 what does Orestes say he must do, asking for Apollo's help?

3. Orestes had been banished by his mother; how was Electra treated? (pg 197)

4. What is the Chorus singing about at the top of pg. 198. This passage leads off the last of the Harry Potter books. If you have read these books, why do you think JK Rowling inserts it at the beginning of that book?

5. The theme of *xenia* (guest/host relationship) is a recurring one in the these plays. What is the irony in Lines 690-705?

6. How does Clytemnestra respond when hearing the 'news' that Orestes is dead?

**Part II Pages 214 - 226**

1.What does Orestes friend, Pylades, say to him when O. doesn't want to go through with killing his mother? (L.886-889)

2. After reading about Orestes murder here (on pp. 219-220), how does it compare to the murder committed by Clytemnestra in the first play?

3. How is Orestes feeling in Lines 1001- 1031?

4. What is the main question/issue that this play ends with?