The Oedipus Complex:

The term **Oedipus complex** refers to the emotions and ideas that the mind keeps in the unconscious, via dynamic repression, that concentrate upon a child's desire to have sexual relations with the parent of the opposite sex (i.e. males attracted to their mothers, and females attracted to their fathers). Sigmund Freud, who coined the term "Oedipus complex" believed that the Oedipus complex is a desire for the parent in both males and females; Freud condemned the term "Electra complex", which was introduced by Carl Gustav Jung in regard to the Oedipus complex manifested in young girls.

In classical Freudian psychoanalytic theory, a child's identification with the same-sex parent is the successful resolution of the Oedipus complex and of the Electra complex. This is a key psychological experience that is necessary for the development of a mature sexual role and identity. Sigmund Freud further proposed that boys and girls experience the complexes differently: boys in a form of castration anxiety, girls in a form of penis envy; and that unsuccessful resolution of the complexes might lead to neurosis, pedophilia, and homosexuality. Men and women who are fixated in the Oedipal and Electra stages of their psychosexual development might be considered "mother-fixated" and "father-fixated". In adult life this can lead to a choice of a sexual partner who resembles one's parent.

The Oedipus Myth:

Oedipus was a mythical Greek king of Thebes. A tragic hero in Greek mythology (Sophocles’ *Oedipus Rex*), Oedipus accidentally fulfilled the prophecy, despite his efforts not to, that he would kill his father and marry his mother, and thereby bring disaster on his city and his family. When they discover what has happened, his /mother kills herself, and Oedipus gouges out his own eyes. The story of Oedipus is the subject of the Greek tragedy Oedipus the King. Oedipus represents two enduring themes of Greek myth and drama: the flawed nature of humanity and an individual's role in the course of destiny in a harsh universe.

Oedipus is born to King Laius and Queen Jocasta in Thebes. Laius wishes to thwart a prophecy, which says that his child will grow up to murder his father and marry his mother. Thus, he fastens the infant's feet together with a large pin and leaves him to die on a mountainside. The baby is found by shepherds and raised by King Polybus and Queen Merope in the city of Corinth. Oedipus learns from the oracle at Delphi of the prophecy, but mistakenly believes it means he is fated to murder Polybus and marry Merope, so he leaves Corinth. Heading to Thebes, Oedipus meets an older man in a chariot coming the other way on a narrow road. The two quarrel over who should give way, resulting in Oedipus killing the stranger before continuing on to Thebes. He finds that the king of the city (Laius) has been recently killed and that the city is at the mercy of the Sphinx. Oedipus answers the monster's riddle correctly, defeating it and winning the throne of the dead king and the hand in marriage of the king's widow, his mother, Jocasta.

**From Wikipedia** [**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oedipus\_complex**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oedipus_complex) **(accessed 28.10.15)**