



# Electra

In Greek mythology, Electra was the daughter of **King Agamemnon** and **Queen Clytemnestra**, and thus princess of **Argos**. Myth has it that she and her brother **Orestes** plotted revenge against their mother Clytemnestra and stepfather **Aegisthus** for the murder of their father Agamemnon. Electra is one of the most ubiquitous mythological characters in tragedies insofar as she features as the main character in two Greek tragedies named after her, the former by **Sophocles** and the latter by **Euripides**.

In psychology, the **Electra complex** formulated by **Carl Gustav Jung** is also named after this mythological character. The complex designates a **girl's psychosexual competition with her mother for possession of her father**. In the course of her psychosexual development, the complex corresponds to the phallic stage in boys, and a boy's analogous experience is the **Oedipus complex**. The Electra complex occurs aged between 3 and 6 and goes through five psychosexual development stages, just like the Oedipus complex does – namely: **oral, anal, phallic, latent, and genital**. In these phases the source of libido pleasure concentrates in different erogenous zones of the infant's body. In classical psychoanalytic theory, the child's **identification with the same-sex parent** marks the successful resolution of the Electra and the Oedipus complexes, and make the key psychological experience to developing a mature sexual role and identity in each and every individual. According to the **Freudian theory**, by contrast, girls and boys resolve their complexes differently – the girl, via **penis envy**; the boy, via **castration anxiety**. Accordingly, women and men who remains stuck and fixated in the Electra and Oedipal stages of their psychosexual development might be considered 'father-fixated' and 'mother-fixated', as revealed when the sexual partner disturbingly resembles the other-sex parent.



Click on the Picture for a **VIDEO** on the Electra Complex