

Here are some sample passages to try:

1. Rage—Goddess, sing the rage of Peleus' son Achilles, murderous, doomed, that cost the Achaeans countless losses, hurling down to the House of Death so many sturdy souls, great fighter' souls, but made their body carrion, feasts for the dogs and birds, and the will of Zeus was moving toward its end. Begin, Muse, when the two first broke and clashed, Agamemnon lord of men and brilliant Achilles.

Fill in the blank.

Briefly summarize the breaking and clashing of Agamemnon and Achilles as referred to here.

Chryses, a priest of Apollo, ~~was~~ ^{protected} when his daughter, Chryseis, is made Ag's war prize. Apollo sends a plague. To stop the plague, Chryseis must be returned. Ag takes Achilles' prize, Briseis, to compensate for his loss of time. Achilles vows to sit out the fighting in protest.

What is the importance of rage to the poem as a whole?

The poem is not a document of the war but rather is centered around the rage of Achilles.

His rage leads to many dead on both sides, as he does not re-enter the war until he avenges the death of his friend Patroclus + the fighting reaches the ships.

What is the poem's overall message on this theme?

Rage, pride, is destructive. While Ach's personal rage fuels his aristeia, in general Achilles' rage is destructive.

2. Then Pallas Athena granted Tydeus' son Diomedes strength and daring—so the fighter would shine forth and tower over the Argives and win himself great glory.

Fill in the blank.

What is the name for the episode of glory referred to in the passage?

aristeia

Besides the character named in the blank, what other characters have similar experiences?

Patroclus, Hector, Achilles

What danger do characters such as these face, having had their glory?

hubris.
The danger is that they will go too far + forget that they are mortals

3. Do as you please, Zeus . . .
but none of the deathless gods will ever praise you...
if you send Sarpedon home, living still, beware!
Then surely some other god will want to sweep
his own son clear of the heavy fighting too.

Name the speaker of the passage.

Hera

What does this episode say about the relationships of the gods to the men?

The role of the gods is to enforce fate.
Gods may intervene + have favorites
but they have a duty within fate.

4. So all through Troy the men who had fled like panicked fawns
were wiping off their sweat, drinking away their thirst,
leaning along the city's massive ramparts now
while Achaean troops, sloping shields to shoulders,
closed against the walls.

What stylistic feature is prominent in the above passage?

Simile

Explain the terms of the feature, its meaning, and its effect.

Trojans = panicked fawns
The simile highlights their status
as prey, vulnerable, skittish.