

English 9

Begin to review *The Iliad*

Books 1, 5, 6, 9, 16, 22, 24 (with cameo appearances by Books 2, 3, and 18)

The test will be quotation identification. You are not expected immediately to be able to identify a passage; rather, you should make inferences as you read and then deduce the speaker, context, and significance of the passage.

Make study sheets. For each book:

1. Summarize the action.
2. Think through the themes that connect prominently to each book:
 - rage/pride
 - honor and glory (including the emphasis on action over thought; aristeia)
 - the gods
 - mortality (the fact that we will all die)
 - wartime vs. peacetime
 - love and friendship
 - fate vs. free will
3. Remember the characters important to each book. Be sure you can identify the side with which any major character is affiliated.
4. Be able to identify the features of style we have discussed:
 - invocation of the muse
 - epithet
 - heroic/epic/Homeric simile
 - ring composition
 - repetition
 - point of view, including the use of the second person and apostrophe
 - epic scope
5. Think of the rhetorical appeals we have identified with the persuasive speeches in the text:
 - ethos
 - logos
 - pathos
 - and also Kairos.

Does the speech at hand use these appeals to persuade others? Be able to discuss how the appeals are at work.

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, _____, 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.

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

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

2. Then Pallas Athena granted Tydeus' son _____
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?

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

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

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.

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

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?

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