

Individual Learning Packet

Teaching Unit

The Iliad

by Homer

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The Iliad

Objectives

By the end of this Unit, the student will be able to:

1. discuss *The Iliad* in its historical context, including its importance in codifying elements of the oral tradition into a written work.
2. summarize the elements of an epic and cite the elements in *The Iliad* that classify it as such, including the techniques of repetition, the use of the *aristeia*, direct address to the muses or gods, investment of power in inanimate objects, the importance of a person's pedigree and history as a warrior, and the role of fate.
3. identify the main gods and goddesses and their areas of influence as included in *The Iliad*.
4. construct a timeline of the events portrayed in *The Iliad*.
5. discuss the burial rituals of the time.
6. discuss the meaning of the terms "hero" and "champion" and give examples from the story.
7. identify the main heroes of the story and give a thumbnail sketch of their roles and loyalties.
8. be able to evaluate the relative strengths of the two armies.
9. compare and contrast the treatment of women as portrayed among the human characters and among the gods/goddesses.
10. discuss why Homer included certain events and scenes, such as the detailed gore of battle, the seemingly monotonous repetition of a person's ancestry and heritage, and information on funeral games.
11. appreciate the rituals of hospitality as evidenced in *The Iliad*, including feasts, the exchange of gifts, and courtesies due to those in power or those of great age.
12. compare and contrast the lives and characters of the two greatest warriors of the time: Achilles and Hector.

The Iliad

Study Guide Student Copy

BOOK I Pages 13-23

Vocabulary

abode – remained, stayed
aegis-bearing – giving sponsorship or protection
aloof – distant, detached
ambrosial – divine; belonging to the gods
ambuscade – an ambush
appease – to pacify or placate
augurs – people who can predict the future
beseech – to beg or plead
besought – begged
chanting – a variation of the word *chanting*
consummate – expert, flawless
covetous – jealous, envious
disquieted – worried, uneasy
facile – fluent in an easy or effortless way
foray – a raid or sudden attack
forestays – strong ropes extending from the mast to the bow of a sailing ship
forsooth – truly
furled – rolled up
hawsers – cables used in anchoring a ship
hecatomb – a public sacrifice to the gods consisting of the killing of a large quantity of animals
hence – from now
hied – hurried
hind – a female deer
hoar – grayish-white in color
host – an army
insolence – disrespect
loom – a machine used for making cloth
loth [loath] – unwilling, reluctant
lyre – a musical instrument similar to a harp
meed [archaic] – a reward
merman – a mythological creature with the head and body of a man and the tail of a fish
mooring-stones – heavy stones used to anchor a ship
oracles – fortune-tellers, seers

BOOK V

Pages 59-75

Vocabulary

assuage – to alleviate; to ease
august – imposing, majestic
bane – a curse; cause of ruin
begat – fathered; gave birth to
besmirched – tainted, soiled
bestride – to straddle; one leg on either side
betwixt – between
chaff – the waste left after grain has been harvested; something unnecessary
coppice – a small group of trees or shrubs, thicket
decrees – commands
discomfited – humiliated
enshrouded – covered
exhorting – urging, encouraging
foals – young horses
forage – animal feed
gainsay – to oppose or contradict
glut – to fill to excess
gold-bedizened – ornamented with gold
havoc – chaos, mayhem
hewing – cutting, slashing
hurly-burly – commotion, chaos
ichor – the blood-like fluid that supposedly flows in the veins of the gods
impelled – compelled, urged
implored – begged
incarnate – in the flesh; personified
kinsmen – relatives
matrimonial – having to do with marriage
prattling – chattering
prowess – skill, ability
quells – suppresses, conquers
raiment – clothing
recked [*archaic*] – cared about; took into consideration
renown – fame
resolute – determined
semblance – an appearance
sinews – tendons, muscles
skulking – lurking, prowling
termagant – a scolding woman
threshing-floor – the place where grain is separated from the seeds and husks
undismayed – untroubled
vaunt – to boast or brag
vesture – clothing
vouchsafe – to grant or to give
winnowing – separating what is wanted from that which is not
wraith – a ghost or apparition

BOOK X

Pages 121-131

Vocabulary

anointed – dabbed or smeared, usually with oil, in a ceremonial way

bedight [*archaic*] – furnished, equipped

boded – signified, portended

bootless – useless

casque – a helmet

conversant – familiar, acquainted

fallow – uncultivated, empty

ferret – a weasel-like animal

furrow – a trough or groove

gild – to cover with gold

heedlessness – neglect, carelessness

heretofore – previously

heron – a type of wading bird

infused – instilled, filled

javelin – a type of spear that is thrown

meet [*archaic*] – fitting, proper

plaiting – braiding

plunder – to loot or steal

shrewd – clever, wise

sloth – laziness

straits – difficult circumstances

tawny – yellowish-brown in color

titular – relating to a title or name

wanes – diminishes, decreases

1. Why would Homer note what animal skins the different Achaean heroes put on themselves as they gather to meet each other in conference?

2. Who goes from the Achaeans to spy on the Trojans?

BOOK XXI
Pages 261-272

Vocabulary

abate – to decrease or subside
abundantly – plentifully
afflicted – troubled, bothered
albeit – although
compassing – scheming, plotting
gloat – to boast or take pride
haughtiness – pride, arrogance
herbage – grasses or plants
misconducting – misbehaving
noontide – mid-day
patroness – a female supporter or benefactor
rabble – a mob or crowd
refuge – a sanctuary, shelter
resounded – echoed
roods – land measurements equal to about $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre
sanction – authorization, permission
seething – churning violently
sodden – soaked
strove – struggled
swineherd – one who tends pigs or hogs
tumultuous – turbulent, chaotic
unmolested – not bothered or mistreated
warders – custodians, wardens

1. What happened when Achilles met Lycaon, son of Priam, and how had they met previously?
2. Why is the river Scamander angry at Achilles?
3. What action does the river take against Achilles?

BOOK XXII
Pages 273-282

Vocabulary

attiring – a headdress

balked [*balked*] – thwarted, hindered

defile – to dishonor or desecrate

destitute – extremely poor

distraught – upset, distressed

fountainhead – the origin or source of something

frontlet – an ornamental band worn on the forehead

hitherto – up until now

inveigle – to entice or trick

parleying – discussing

pillaged – looted, plundered

1. How does King Priam try to save Hector?
2. Outside of the walls, Hector berates himself for past errors. What are these mistakes that are worrying him now?
3. In a series of events that is almost comedic, Achilles chases Hector around the city of Ilius. What is the point of this activity?
4. What action of Jove shows that he does not control every outcome?
5. What trick does Minerva play on Hector?

BOOK XXIII
Pages 283-299

Vocabulary

artifice – a trick or ploy

barque [*bark*] – a small sailing ship

begrimed – covered with dirt or grime

bestrewn – strewn or scattered with

boisterous – energetic, lively

espying – noticing, sighting

gait – one's manner of walking

heirloom – a valued possession handed down through the family

indiscretion – lack of judgment; recklessness

mar – to ruin or tarnish

offal – the waste parts of slaughtered animals

rivulets – streams

swoon – to pass out, lose consciousness

unguents – ointments, lotions

vindictive – spiteful, malicious

wiles – tricks, deceptions

wroth – angry, wrathful

1. Compare the treatment of the body of Patroclus to that of Hector's remains.

2. What does Patroclus say when he appears in Achilles' dream?

3. What are the Achaean funeral rituals used to mourn Patroclus?