

CONTENTS

How to Use This Study Guide With the Text	4	APPENDIX	71
Notes & Instructions to Teacher	5	Memorization & Recitation	72
Taking With Us What Matters	6	Final Memorized Poem.....	74
Four Stages to the Central One Idea	8	Use Your Best Penmanship!	74
Introduction.....	11	Master Words-to-Be-Defined List.....	75
Basic Features & Background	14		
AGAMEMNON	17		
Pre-Grammar Preparation.....	18		
Grammar Presentation	19		
Logic Dialectic.....	26		
Rhetoric Expression.....	29		
THE CHOEPHORI	35		
Pre-Grammar Preparation.....	36		
Grammar Presentation	37		
Logic Dialectic.....	44		
Rhetoric Expression.....	47		
THE EUMENIDES	53		
Pre-Grammar Preparation.....	54		
Grammar Presentation	55		
Logic Dialectic.....	62		
Rhetoric Expression.....	65		

ABOUT THE EDITORS

Brett Vaden has written for Memoria Press and taught for the Memoria Press Online Academy and Highlands Latin School for seven years. He received his master of divinity degree from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and is currently working on a PhD in Pastoral Theology and Counseling. He is blessed to be married to Rachael and to be the father of Story, Arrow, and Harmony.

Kate Janke joined the Highlands Latin School faculty in 2010 and lives in Louisville, KY. She has a BA in History from Hillsdale College and has also completed her MA in Theological Studies from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. She teaches Geography and Classical Studies in the Upper School at HLS and has taught Classical Composition online as well. She enjoys teaching private piano lessons and participating in the worship team at her church.

David M. Wright is the Director and Writer of the Upper-School literature curriculum at Memoria Press. He has taught AP Literature and English with a focus on the Great Books for the last ten years. He received his master's degree in English Literature from DePaul University in Chicago, and holds a Classical Teacher certificate from the CiRCE Institute. He is currently working on a PhD in Literature at the University of Louisville. He is the Founder and Director of the annual Climacus Conference in Louisville. His greatest blessings are his wife and five kids, ages 3-12.

AGAMEMNON

Central Quote:

PRE-GRAMMAR | Preparation

*Prepare to think about the play and its Central One Idea
by drawing upon your prior knowledge, experience, or interests.*

1. Imagine you have been tricked and hurt by someone close to you. How might you be tempted to respond?

2. Recall a time when you have gotten even with someone who did something bad to you. What reasons did you have for paying the person back?

GRAMMAR | Presentation

*Discover essential facts, elements, and features of the play
through the Reading Notes, Words to Be Defined, and Comprehension Questions.*

READING NOTES

1. **Atreus** (41.4) – father of Agamemnon and Menelaus; brother of Thyestes, whose children he killed and served as a meal to Thyestes.
2. **how changed this house is now** (42.6) – The house of Atreus has a sordid past. Its founder, Tantalus, was a mortal son of Zeus who often dined with the gods, but one day he decided to murder his son and guilefully serve the flesh to the gods. The gods, however, perceived what the food was before they ate, and they punished Tantalus. The gods revived his son, Pelops, who remained an honorable man for the rest of his life. Pelops' two sons, Atreus and Thyestes, followed Tantalus's example rather than Pelops'. Likewise, Atreus's son Agamemnon killed his own daughter and offered her as a sacrifice. And so the curse on this family that Tantalus began continues to haunt it.
3. **Ilion** (42.15) – the city of Troy.
4. **Hellas** (43.5) – Greece.
5. **Priam** (43.6) – King of Troy; father of Hector, Paris, and Cassandra; killed upon an altar of Zeus.
6. **Fury** (43.18) – a goddess who pursued sinners, especially those guilty of killing blood-related kin.
7. **Paris** (43.20) – son of Priam; while a guest of Menelaus in Greece, he stole Menelaus' wife, Helen, and brought her back with him to Troy, instigating the Trojan War.
8. **Zeus, witness between guest and host** (43.21) – Zeus was the patron of hospitality, and he avenged any wrong done by either host or guest. The guest-host relationship is a recurring theme.
9. **Daughter of Tyndareos** (44.20) – Tyndareos was a king of Sparta and husband to Leda, the mother of Clytemnestra and Helen. Leda bore these daughters by Zeus, who appeared to her as a swan. Helen was so beautiful that many suitors sought her, including Odysseus, Ajax, Menelaus, and Agamemnon. Helen chose Menelaus, and Agamemnon wedded Clytemnestra. While Helen is often called "daughter of Zeus" because of her goddess-like beauty, Clytemnestra is not named with reference to Zeus, but to Tyndareos, perhaps because she is more like a queen than a goddess.¹
10. **Artemis** (46.15) – goddess daughter of Leto and Zeus, and sister of Apollo; she was the patron of wild animals and avenged the death of those sacred to her, such as a pregnant hare. Since Agamemnon sought to destroy Troy, which was like a hare that had not yet birthed her litter, Artemis sent a wind that kept the Greek ships from sailing out of port. To appease her, Agamemnon sacrificed his daughter, Iphigenia.
11. **Fate** (47.14) – The idea of fate occurs often in this play. It is the idea that people's lives are ultimately predetermined. Greek mythology personified this idea in the three Fates, who were goddesses that decided every person's destiny. In *Agamemnon*, it often seems that when the characters make life-altering decisions, they are acting according to fate rather than free will.

1. See Vellacott's discussion on p. 13.