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The Trojan War

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Reading Notes

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Zeus | ruler of gods and men |
| Thetis | sea nymph; mother of Achilles |
| Peleus | king of the Myrmidons; father of Achilles |
| Hera | queen of the gods |
| Athene | goddess of wisdom |
| Aphrodite | goddess of beauty |
| Priam | king of Troy |
| Hecuba | queen of Troy |
| Paris (Alexandros) | son of Priam and Hecuba |

*Vocabulary words with an asterisk are Mastery Words and will appear in the tests.

*Comprehension Question answers with an asterisk indicate important plot points that will appear in the tests.

Vocabulary

Write the meaning of each bold word or phrase.

1. Three great **urns** _____ n. vases
2. dark **Discord** was not among them. _____ Eris, the goddess of disagreement and conflict
3. to summon the **soothsayers**. _____ n. ones who predict events; seers
4. Their drink was **nectar** _____ n. sweet liquid secreted by flowers
5. in **haughty*** anger at his rejection. _____ adj. arrogantly self-admiring, proud

Comprehension Questions

Answer the following in complete sentences.

1. Why did Zeus marry Thetis to a mortal, King Peleus? There was a prophecy that Thetis would have a son who would be greater than his father, so Zeus married her to a human to ensure that her son might be glorious only among men, and not become greater than a god.
2. Why did the goddess Discord throw the golden apple on the table during the feast, and why did this cause a disruption? Discord was not invited to the wedding of Thetis and Peleus, so she threw the apple into the feast to cause the goddesses to fight among themselves and ruin the harmony of the wedding party.
3. Explain why Priam sent his son Paris away to die. What prevented Paris' death? *Hecuba had a dream that her son was a flaming torch, and the soothsayers interpreted this dream as being a warning that this son would cause the destruction of Troy. Priam had Paris left in the wilds of Mount Ida to die, but poor shepherds found the baby and took him in and raised him.

4. Why was Paris chosen by the gods to be the judge of who should receive the golden apple?

Paris was chosen to be the judge between the goddesses because of his innocence of mind.

5. List the promises the three goddesses made to Paris as they tried to sway him to pick them.

Hera: *"I will make you the king of the world."

Athene: "I will teach you all the wisdom that there is in the mind of man."

Aphrodite: "You shall have the fairest woman in all the world to wife."

Quotations

"For the Fairest."

What is for the fairest? a golden apple

Who is the fairest? Aphrodite

"What is the life of one child against the welfare of all?"

Speaker: King Priam

Who is the child? Paris

How is his life a threat to the welfare of all? His mother, Hecuba, had a dream that the soothsayers interpreted as a warning that Paris would cause the destruction of Troy.

Discussion Questions

1. Discuss the Greek belief that the gods were intimately involved in all human affairs.

Enrichment

1. Look up "haughty" in the dictionary, and write out its complete definition, its alternate forms, and 2-3 synonyms.

haughty: adj. arrogantly self-admiring and disdainful

alternate forms: haughtily - adv. haughtiness - n.

synonyms: arrogant, proud, superior, pretentious, pompous

2. Define "irony." What is ironic about the actions taken by Priam and Hecuba to protect their kingdom?

Irony is the incongruity between what might be expected and what actually occurs. The very action that Priam and Hecuba took to protect their kingdom resulted in their son being selected to be the judge of who should receive the apple, the cause of the Trojan War.