

BOOK 1: THE ANGER OF ACHILLES

Identify Places and Characters:

Chryses	<i>(kre-ye-seez) priest of Apollo who asked Agamemnon to give his daughter back</i>
Tenedos	<i>(ten-e-dos) small northeastern Aegean island sacred to Apollo and just west of Troy</i>
Chryseis	<i>(kre-ye-see-is) daughter of Chryses</i>
Briseis	<i>(bri-say-is) Achilles' prize; daughter of Briseus</i>
Nestor	<i>venerable leader of the Pylians; the oldest and wisest Greek chieftain</i>
Patroclus	<i>(pa-tro-klus) older friend and squire of Achilles; son of Menoetius (me-nee-shuhs)</i>
Argos	<i>important city near Mycenae in the Argolid; under the rule of Diomed</i>
Myrmidons	<i>the followers of Achilles from Phthia; the "ant people"</i>

Comprehension Questions:

1. What was Chryses' petition? How did Agamemnon respond, and what does this tell you about his character? _____

2. Who brought the plague upon the Greek camp, and why? _____

3. Which Greek called the assembly and spoke first? What was his request? _____

4. Calchas asked for the _____ of Achilles before he spoke. What did he say?

5. Make Agamemnon's case in this quarrel. _____

6. Make Achilles' case in this quarrel. _____

7. Who prevented Achilles from attacking Agamemnon? _____

8. Why does Nestor command respect? What was his advice? _____

9. How did Achilles bring his mother up from the depths of the sea? What did he ask her to do?

10. Why was Zeus reluctant to honor Thetis' request? _____

11. Describe Hera's personality. _____

12. Who comforted Hera? What story made her smile? _____

13. Describe Olympian bliss. _____

Quotations:

- "Sing, O goddess, the anger of Achilles, son of Peleus, that brought countless ills upon the Achaeans. Many a brave soul did it send hurrying down to Hades, and many a hero did it yield a prey to dogs and vultures, for so were the counsels of Zeus fulfilled from the day on which the son of Atreus, king of men, and great Achilles first fell out with one another."
 – **Homer's appeal to the Muse**
- "You are steeped in insolence and lust of gain. With what heart can any of the Achaeans do your bidding."
 – **Achilles to Agamemnon**
- Then uprose smooth-tongued Nestor, the facile speaker of the Pylians, and the words fell from his lips sweeter than honey.

Discussion Questions:

1. Who do you have more sympathy for, Agamemnon or Achilles? Why?
2. How did Agamemnon and Achilles acquire their prizes? What kind of culture is depicted in the *Iliad*? Give other examples of this kind of culture.

BOOK 2: BEFORE BATTLE

Identify Places and Characters:

Dawn	<i>“rosy-fingered” and “saffron-robed” Eos—goddess of the break of day</i>
Icarian Sea	<i>part of the Aegean sea around the island Icaria; where Icarus drowned</i>
Eurybates	<i>(yoo-ri-ba-teez) Ithacan and faithful servant of Odysseus; a herald of the Greeks</i>
Thersites	<i>(ther-si-teez) ugliest of the Greeks; an endless talker</i>
Aulis	<i>coastal town in eastern Boeotia; where Greeks met before sailing to Troy</i>
Scamander	<i>the chief river god who flows through the plain below Troy</i>
Iris	<i>messenger of the gods, especially of Zeus</i>
Lycia	<i>region in southern Anatolia; capital is Xanthus; led by Sarpedon and Glaucus</i>

Comprehension Questions:

1. Of what did Zeus inform Agamemnon in the “Lying Dream”? Why did Zeus send this dream to Agamemnon? _____

2. Whose form did the dream take? Why? _____
3. What unusual plan did Agamemnon devise to test the Greeks? _____

4. _____ prevented the Greeks from leaving by sending _____.
5. What was Thersites’ criticism of Agamemnon? How did Odysseus respond? _____

6. How did Calchas convince the Greeks that they would win the war in the tenth year?

7. While the Greeks prepared for battle, Agamemnon sacrificed a bull. Name the six people he invited. Who else showed up? _____

8. The “Catalogue of Ships” is an oft-used literary technique in ancient oral and written traditions. All of Greece is mentioned in this section, and many of the warriors had hero cults in their home cities during the classical age. Which king brought the most men? 2nd most? 3rd most? Who brought the fewest? _____

9. How many men did not fight because of the quarrel between Agamemnon and Achilles (estimate 120 men per ship)? _____
10. Which Greek drove the best horses? _____
11. Next to Achilles, who was the greatest footsoldier of the Greeks? _____

Quotations:

- “Odysseus has done many a good thing ere now in fight and council, but he never did the Argives a better turn than when he stopped this fellow’s mouth from prating further. He will give the kings no more of his insolence.”
 – the Greeks about Thersites
- Achilles was now holding aloof at his ships by reason of his quarrel with Agamemnon, and his people passed their time upon the seashore, throwing discs or aiming with spears at a mark, and in archery. Their horses stood each by his own chariot, champing lotus and wild celery. The chariots were housed under cover, but their owners, for lack of leadership, wandered hither and thither about the host and went not forth to fight.

Discussion Questions:

1. Is a god obligated to answer a request accompanied by sacrifices? What does this tell you about the Greek perception of divinity? After sacrificing an animal, what do the Greeks do with the meat?
2. Differentiate between the two Ajaxes.