

# The Iliad Unit - Part 1

**CUT AND GLUE/TAPE THE VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THIS HANDOUT APPROPRIATELY INTO NOTEBOOK.**

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## Reading Timeline for the Iliad for Part 1

Complete reading and writing notes/answers for each chapter finished by the following dates:

- Book 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Book 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Book 3 \_\_\_\_\_ Book 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Book 6 \_\_\_\_\_
- Book 9 \_\_\_\_\_ Book 10 \_\_\_\_\_ Book 11 \_\_\_\_\_ Book 12 \_\_\_\_\_ (mid unit test)

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## Good Note-Taking

- As you are reading the text, use post-it notes to annotate any comments, questions, associations, concerns, etc., that may arise.
- If you do not understand something, write a question.
- If you recognize a mythological connection, write it down.
- If you encounter a possible recurring theme/motif, make note of it.
- Take any notes that will help clarify meanings for you, or will remind you to ask questions while we are discussing the novel.

## Book 1

### ABSTRACT

- Agamemnon captures two women and brings a plague down on his army.
- Agamemnon returns one woman to remove the plague.
- Agamemnon takes Briseis and so Achilles is angry and leave the fight.
- Achilles' mother persuades Zeus to side with the Trojans until Achilles' honor is restored.

### Notes and Questions

1. According to the first 8 lines, what will this poem be about?
2. What do you think the quarrel between Agamemnon and Achilles is about? Compare / contrast to the "quarrel" that started the war. Do gods or men or both cause the quarrel?
3. What do you think of Apollo's murderous response (2-3) to Chryses' prayer? What do you think of Zeus's response (16-17) to Thetis' request?
4. What accusations do Achilles and Agamemnon level at each other? Do you think these charges are just?
5. Who do you think is in the right in this quarrel? Who do the Achaeans think is in the right? Why? Why do you think Achilles and Agamemnon fail to take Nestor's advice?
6. What kind of people do you think Agamemnon and Achilles are?
7. How do you think Achilles "decides" to refrain from killing Agamemnon (7-8)? Why does Achilles give up Briseis (8-10)? What do you think of Achilles' refusal to fight?
8. In what senses is Agamemnon more powerful than Achilles?
9. How do men get gods to do what men want?
10. Name some similarities between Zeus and Achilles (and Zeus and Agamemnon).
11. How do you react to the way women (mortal and immortal) portrayed in Book 1?
12. What do you think the heroes in the Iliad are fighting for? Do the heroes seem to like fighting?
13. How do you know who has the most honor? Why do you think Zeus honors Thetis' request (16-17)? What do you think of Zeus' response to her (lines 549-559)?
14. In what ways do you think the men's and gods' quarrels are like / unlike? Why do you think these quarrels have different outcomes?