

The Conflict:

Agememnon refuses to return a captured woman (a daughter) to the priest of Apollo.

Agememnon was rude to the priest & therefore to Apollo.

Achilles calls a meeting
→ ~~Power~~ Power Struggle

Seer calls out Agememnon on his wrong doings

Time → honor
what brings honor?

- war prize (spoils of war)
- gold / medals / jewel
- weapons / armour
- people / slaves

Agememnon - Great King
- political & economical power

- in charge of giving out war prizes

Identity in Ancient Greece

↳ directly linked to publically acknowledged honor and image.

- glory
- honor

Both parties are wrong - both publically undermine each other

Achilles - wants individual glory

~~was~~ individual ⇒ society

→ also selfish "you think you can fight w/o me?"

Troy is unified - Greece is not

Achilles shows his character w/ the 2 messengers
"my fight is not with you"

→ does his anger make him stupid?

1/29
* Which character is most like Achilles and why?

Homer
~ 700 BCE

- oral storyteller
- little known about his life
- not blind

Was the Trojan War real?

The Homeric Questions

- who is Homer?
- Did he write the Iliad/Odyssey
- Written or Oral?
- One person / many people?
- Do they have the same author?

Oral Tradition

Storytelling - about passing tradition

Homer to later Greeks

- most important
- epic poetry
- religion (honouring gods)

- vital to Greek cultural heritage
- education
 - rhetoric
 - morality
 - heroism
 - courage
 - masculinity
- entertainment

Achilles is most like Agamemnon because:

1. Proudful
2. Spoilful
3. Powerful

1. Both characters are reluctant to give up their war prize to the "higher power"
2. Both characters insult others as a result of their actions. Agamemnon insults the priest who claims he has done wrong & Achilles insults the king for his actions.

3. Power - both characters
obtain power in their
respected regions

→ power was
obtained by both
through war

2/10

- oral formulaic composition
- uses formulae
- draws an established oral tradition
- takes pieces → formulae
→ puts together
- rapidly compose
- verse
- dactylic hexameter

foot of a line

dactyl

long

short short

accented

unaccented

unacc

6 feet per line, each is either
a dactyl or spondee

Homer → dactyl
or spondee

u u
- -

epic → dactylic hexameter

Example -

THIS IS THE FOREST PRIMEVAL
THE MURMURING PINES AND
THE HEMLOCKS. BEARDED WITH
MOSS AND IN GARDENS GREEN
INDISTINCT IN THE ~~PROPER~~
TWILIGHT.

* Homer had a set formula

Epithets - descriptions which
go with names
- adjectives

scenes → set scenes
conventions

repetition
lists

2/4/02

Q

Quiz -

write 2 paragraphs making any argument about today's readings. Use enough detail & support to prove that you read.

Email Professor regarding make-up.

Patroclus ~~was~~ losing his armor is or could be a metaphor for him losing his identity

The mortality of man vs. the immortality of Gods
~~the mortality of man vs. the immortality of Gods~~

The brutality of man

was Hector's actions significant of true courage? He runs away at first - he only fights b/c he figures he is going to die anyway.

He knows hes going to die - he asks for a proper burial. Is that courageous?

Athena has to trick Hecete
in to fighting Achilles

Does Achilles suffer from
PTS? Is that why he
kills Hector? Is it anger
is it both?

are his actions unreasonable
He disrespects Hector's
body ~~copies~~. Would Hector
have done the same
to 'Petroclus' bodies.

Achilles will "take it
when Zeus hands it
to [him]"

→ He is beginning to ISOI
himself before Hector
kills Petroclus?

Achilles dragged around the
body pic of his pride -
wanted Troy to know that
he is the greatest and that
who believe they could
kill him are arrogant
& naive

Achilles's own arrogance & pride

Are the gods overly involved in the lives of humans?

The gods criticize each other for trying to save humans but they have no opposition to ~~Apollon~~ Apollo slaughtering thousands.

There is a delicate balance between the gods & humans

The Brutality, & disgust in the way that Achilles treats Hector's body.

His moral limits are shattered after seeing Patroclus dead.
→ he ignores the gods' rules of burial

Robbed Hector of his honor.

War is Achilles' entire life. It's all he knows. He was always irrational - this is not new behavior. Therefore -
NOT P.T.S.
(post traumatic stress)

When you think about how long they have been away from home then it makes sense (seemingly) that these warriors could ~~lose~~ lose their identity.

Does Achilles' relationship w Patroclus humanize Achilles?

→ he rejects the rest of society

Achilles' willingness to step back & watch people die does not apply to the death of Patroclus

Warriors, soldiers in arms together, "brothers". Can we understand this sort of bond?

Whether or not they were sexually involved is irrelevant.

3/15

Q: Did Achilles Change
in the course of the epic?

A: Certainly in the beginning of the epic, Achilles seems more level headed. He does not blame Agamemnon's messenger for coming to take away his war prize - he knows the fight is not with him. Toward the end of the epic, he seems more full of vengeance. This could be, however, because his pride was not insulted, but his heart was torn by the death of his best friend. Whether or not this change is reasonable or justifiable - it is certainly apparent.

A2: he becomes more passionate

Is it Achilles that changes or do
the Gods change him? ~~do~~

He shows his compassion
by fighting for Hector's
burial period -

maybe he's not such
an animal.

Also - he was ordered by
Gds to return Hector
Prisoner -

Maybe he changed in
to reflect the circumstances
which surround him

In Greek Literature, prophecies
are never fulfilled the way
we expect them to.

Achilles - 2 possible fates

1. Live Long - be obscure

→ 2. Die Young & Achieve Glory
Battle
(his name will live forever)

Body is sacred - how the body is treated is very important.

When the people see Hector being dragged around, they know they will die too

ms

Write 1 sentence on why you agree or disagree

1. Achilles rage shows that the qualities that made one a great warrior in Greek society also made one less fit to deal with conflicts that arise in society.

Disagree. Achilles qualities which make him a great warrior are useful in the warrior society in which he lives. Though they would not be useful in civilian society, he doesn't live there.

2. Agamemnon's theft of Achilles' prize caused Achilles to distrust not only Agamemnon himself but the entire social order of the Greek warriors. This distrust of authority & in power is the primary cause of Achilles' sense of alienation & therefore of the tragic events in the Iliad.

Disagree. Achilles' behavior is not the cause of all the tragic events in the Iliad. The events are triggered by other important characters such as the Gods, Hector, or Patroclus.

3. By portraying the Greeks constantly arguing & jockeying for power, the Iliad suggests that the Greek love of freedom - in other words, the decentralized organization of power - is admirable but comes, at times, with too great a cost.

Disagree - It shows the consequences & conflict which can arise, but does not suggest it is too great a cost. If ^{se to} ^{by that} it were to portray a hierarchy there would not be worse destruction.

4. The portrayal of the gods, especially their parallel conflicts to the human war, indicates that the Iliad portrays strife as the natural condition of all thinking beings.

Literary Arguments:

- A. strong argument (non-banal)
- B. subject to evidence (through literary analysis)
- C. about the text

The connection between the evidence & the claim is the "warrant"
Are you warranted?

→ Agree - strife must be natural if even the gods cannot escape it.

What is heroic about the
deaths in the Head
& Antigone?

Take Home Quiz 2/17
Due Fri 2/26 at 5pm

Write a short essay
1 1/2 - 2 pages

Choose a short passage

& discuss specific literary
choices to overall themes
* thesis - support argument about
passage. Submit to ELMS

By March 3 → 5pm
respond to 4 of your
peers take home quiz
1 paragraph → did the
make a good argument

look at word choice, imagery,
& how it effects the theme.

Include argument