Humanities 1

Study Guide: The Iliad

Read the introduction as well as the text of the poem.

For the gods, know whose side they take in the war and how they intervene in the fighting. For human characters, beyond material in the other items on the study guide, know whether they are Greeks or Trojans, what their role is within the Greek or Trojan army or community, and what their fate is, according to the poem.

1. Thetis
2. Chryseis
3. Briseis
4. Patroclus
5. The Myrmidons
6. Andromache
7. Paris
8. Hecuba
9. Astyanax
10. Athena
11. Ares
12. Zeus
13. Hera
14. Apollo
15. How was the Iliad composed?
16. What controversies are there about how the Iliad was composed?
17. What is ‘meter’, and what is its significance for the Iliad?
18. Who composed the Iliad?
19. When was the Iliad composed?
20. Who was Milman Parry, and why is he important to the Iliad?
21. What is the subject of the Iliad?
22. Why does Achilles withdraw from the fighting?
23. What do the Greeks offer to persuade Achilles to return to battle? Why does he refuse their offer?
24. Whom does Agamemnon send on the mission to talk to Achilles?
25. What is the origin of Achilles’ armor?
26. What does Achilles’ shield depict?
27. What is Achilles’ fate? What does he think about it?
28. What finally persuades Achilles to return to battle?
29. What happens when the Trojans are attacking the Greeks’ ships?
30. Who saves Agenor from Achilles at the gates of Troy?
31. Who leads Achilles on a chase away from Troy, allowing the Trojans to escape inside the city gates?
32. What does Achilles do with Hector’s body?
33. Why does Achilles return Hector’s body?
34. What does the Iliad say about Achilles’ heel?
35. How does the *Iliad* describe the Trojan Horse?
36. Why do Hera and Athena hate Troy?
37. Who conducts Priam to Achilles through the Achaean camp?
38. What does Priam ask of Achilles?
39. How does Achilles respond to Priam’s request?
40. How does the *Iliad* end?