



## NINTH GRADE REQUIRED SUMMER READING

**TEXT - Please buy the specific edition listed below (publisher, year, and ISBN).**

*The Iliad* by Homer translated by Emily Wilson (ISBN: 978- 1324076148, Norton & Company; 2024, paperback edition: [Amazon.com: The Iliad: 9781324076148: Homer, Wilson, Emily: Books](https://www.amazon.com/dp/9781324076148))

This summer, incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders will be reading *The Iliad* by Homer. We will be using a new translation by Emily Wilson, which I believe will be easier and more accessible to students. Her translation also comes with helpful tools including summaries of each chapter (called books) and a list of names with pronunciation and a short description for each character. *The Iliad* is widely considered the first and among the greatest of classical texts and is well worth reading and studying. That being said, I know that reading this book can be a challenge (it was for me when I read it in college). To help you get the most out of this epic, I am going to have you read at three different speeds/levels (see below). I am only requiring students to read half of the epic (12 out of 24 books).

**Level 1:** Read the following books slowly and carefully. Read with a pen and/or highlighter in hand and annotate as you read. These are the most important books because they contain the central story of Achilles and Hector and because they deal most directly with the central themes of the work. These books are: **1, 6, 9, 18, 22, and 24**. The writing portion of the assignment will cover only these six books.

**Level 2:** These chapters are not critical but include enjoyable/memorable moments that you don't want to miss. You don't have to make annotations (though, of course, you are always welcome to do so. It is your book). Instead, you may skim (i.e., read quickly and selectively). Some exciting things you'll encounter in these books include a Greek soldier stabbing a goddess and talking horses. These books are: **3, 5, 10, 16, 19, and 21**.

**Level 3:** These chapters are not critical to the plot. Instead of reading or skimming these chapters, read the summaries of these books in the back of the book. That way you will be able to keep track of the storyline. These books are: **2, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 20, and 23**.

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Assignment

### Reading Guide

Read the books in order and in the way described below. For example, read book 1, then read the summary of book 2, then skim book 3, etc.

**Bold:** read slowly and annotate

Underlined: read/skim

Normal: skip and read summary in the back of the book (in the Notes section)

**Book 1: The Quarrel**

Book 2: The Multitude

Book 3: Gifts of the Goddess

Book 4: First Blood

Book 5: Gods on the Battlefield

**Book 6: The Price of Honor**

Book 7: A Duel

Book 8: The Scales Tip

**Book 9: The Embassy**

Book 10: Espionage by Night

Book 11: Wounds

Book 12: The Wall

Book 13: The Waves

Book 14: An Afternoon Nap

Book 15: Fire at the Ships

Book 16: Love and Death

Book 17: Battle for a Dead Man

**Book 18: Divine Armor**

Book 19: A Meal Before Dying

Book 20: The Warrior's Return

Book 21: The River

**Book 22: A Race to Death**

Book 23: Funeral Games

**Book 24: A Time to Mourn**

The following assignment may be completed in the space provided and/or on separate sheets of notebook paper. If so, be sure to label your answers with the book and theme and staple all papers to the back of the summer reading packet. Write in complete sentences. You may use either cursive or print.

**Due: The first day of your section's literature class during the week of August 18-22.**

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Assignment

### Book 1: Kleos

As you read book 1, look for the theme of *kleos* (CLAY-ohs). This is a Greek word which means glory or fame and is one of the central themes of the epic. Kleos can refer to one's reputation as a soldier or to the treasure a soldier wins in battle. In book 1, Achilles gets some of his glory taken away by Agamemnon when he steals his war-prize (a girl named Briseis). Identify two quotes (3 to 10 lines in length) that highlight/explore this theme and write them in the space below. Include a citation for the quote in parentheses with the book and line numbers i.e., (1.162-166). Then, reflect on each quote by answering the questions in 1-2 sentences each.

Quote 1: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1. What is happening in this passage?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How does this relate to the theme of *kleos*? What is Homer saying about this theme?

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3. What questions do you have about this passage?

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\_\_\_\_\_

4. What does this remind you of? How does this compare to something in Scripture or another book you've read (either from Geneva or personal reading)?

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## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Assignment

### Book 1: Kleos

Quote 2: \_\_\_\_\_

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1. What is happening in this passage?

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2. How does this relate to the theme of *kleos*? What is Homer saying about this theme?

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3. What questions do you have about this passage?

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4. What does this remind you of? How does this compare to something in Scripture or another book you've read (either from Geneva or personal reading)?

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## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Assignment

### Book 6: Duty

As you read book 6, look for the theme of **duty**, particularly duty to family. What is our duty to our family? How do we balance that with duty to our country? Is there a relationship between duty and *kleos*? Identify two quotes (between 3 and 10 lines in length) that highlight and explore this theme and write them in the space below. Include a citation for the quote in parentheses with the book and line numbers i.e., (1.162-166). Then, reflect on each quote by answering the questions in 1-2 sentences each.

Quote 1: \_\_\_\_\_

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1. What is happening in this passage?

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2. How does this relate to the theme of duty? What is Homer saying about this theme?

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3. What questions do you have about this passage?

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4. What does this remind you of? How does this compare to something in Scripture or another book you've read (either from Geneva or personal reading)?

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## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Assignment

### Book 6: Duty

Quote 2: \_\_\_\_\_

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1. What is happening in this passage?

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2. How does this relate to the theme of duty? What is Homer saying about this theme?

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3. What questions do you have about this passage?

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4. What does this remind you of? How does this compare to something in Scripture or another book you've read (either from Geneva or personal reading)?

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## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Assignment

### Book 9: Mortality

As you read book 9, look for the theme of mortality. What does it mean to be mortal? What is the value of human life? How should we think about the fact that we will die someday? Pay close attention to how Achilles wrestles with his own mortality in this book. Identify two quotes (3 to 10 lines in length) that highlight and explore this theme and write them in the space below. Include a citation for the quote in parentheses with the book and line numbers i.e., (1.162-166). Then, reflect on each quote by answering the questions in 1-2 sentences each.

Quote 1: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

1. What is happening in this passage?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How does this relate to the theme of mortality? What is Homer saying about it?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What questions do you have about this passage?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What does this remind you of? How does this compare to something in Scripture or another book you've read (either from Geneva or personal reading)?

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## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Assignment

### Book 9: Mortality

Quote 2: \_\_\_\_\_

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1. What is happening in this passage?

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2. How does this relate to the theme of mortality? What is Homer saying about it?

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3. What questions do you have about this passage?

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4. What does this remind you of? How does this compare to something in Scripture or another book you've read (either from Geneva or personal reading)?

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## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Assignment

### Book 18: Rage

As you read book 18, look for the theme of rage. What causes rage? What are the consequences when rage gets out of control? On the other hand, what happens when men control their rage? Is peace possible? The epic began with the wrath of Achilles; it is the driving force of the story. Now, at the death of his best friend, his wrath is on full display.

Quote 1: \_\_\_\_\_

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1. What is happening in this passage?

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2. How does this relate to the theme of rage? What is Homer saying about this theme?

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3. What questions do you have about this passage?

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4. What does this remind you of? How does this compare to something in Scripture or another book you've read (either from Geneva or personal reading)?

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## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Assignment

### Book 18: Rage

Quote 2: \_\_\_\_\_

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1. What is happening in this passage?

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2. How does this relate to the theme of rage? What is Homer saying about this theme?

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3. What questions do you have about this passage?

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4. What does this remind you of? How does this compare to something in Scripture or another book you've read (either from Geneva or personal reading)?

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## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Assignment

### Book 22: Fate

As you read book 22, look for the theme of fate. You have probably noticed this theme throughout, but here, in the epic showdown between Achilles and Hector, it becomes palpable. Why do things happen the way they do? Do we have any freedom or agency about our lives or the decisions we make? What power controls the course of human events? Pay close attention to Hector's inner monologue as he stands in front of the walls of Troy.

Quote 1: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

1. What is happening in this passage?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How does this relate to the theme of fate? What is Homer saying about this theme?

\_\_\_\_\_

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3. What questions do you have about this passage?

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\_\_\_\_\_

4. What does this remind you of? How does this compare to something in Scripture or another book you've read (either from Geneva or personal reading)?

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## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Assignment

### Book 22: Fate

Quote 2: \_\_\_\_\_

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1. What is happening in this passage?

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2. How does this relate to the theme of fate? What is Homer saying about this theme?

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3. What questions do you have about this passage?

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4. What does this remind you of? How does this compare to something in Scripture or another book you've read (either from Geneva or personal reading)?

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## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Assignment

### Book 24: Grief

As you read the final book of *The Iliad*, look for the theme of grief. Is grief positive or negative? How can grief bring us together? Is grief a uniquely human emotion? What is the relationship between grief and mortality? Between grief and rage? Pay close attention to the dialogue between Achilles and Priam. As you finish the book, think about why Homer chose to end his epic here and not with the fall of Troy or the death of Achilles.

Quote 1: \_\_\_\_\_

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1. What is happening in this passage?

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2. How does this relate to the theme of grief? What is Homer saying about this theme?

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3. What questions do you have about this passage?

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4. What does this remind you of? How does this compare to something in Scripture or another book you've read (either from Geneva or personal reading)?

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## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Assignment

### Book 24: Grief

Quote 2: \_\_\_\_\_

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1. What is happening in this passage?

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2. How does this relate to the theme of grief? What is Homer saying about this theme?

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3. What questions do you have about this passage?

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4. What does this remind you of? How does this compare to something in Scripture or another book you've read (either from Geneva or personal reading)?

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