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Thank you very much for your cooperation. Composed of 15,693 lines of verse, the Iliad has been hailed as the greatest epic of Western civilization. Although we know little about the period in which it was composed and even less about the composer of the epic, the Iliad's influence on later generations of poets and writers is incalculable. The great Aeschylus stated that his works consisted only of scraps left by Homer; centuries later, writing a myth founded centuries later for the great Roman Empire, he took Homer as his inspiration and model. Homer's influence has been felt over the centuries, in Dante and Chaucer, Shakespeare and Milton; such is his power that the men who read read read word of Greek and who had no access to translations spoke of Homer and his epics with deep reverence. After 2,700 years, it remains unsurpassed as the West's greatest war story. The Iliad has its foundations in the rich mythology of Greece. Knowledge of mythology can be an obstacle and a help to the modern reader approaching the Iliad, because myths have undergone changes and variations over the centuries before and after Homer. Readers must pay attention to the specifics of Homer's story, without overlapping the myths collected from elsewhere. Popular is the story of Achilles' invulnerability, with the fatal exception of his heel. This myth has no place in the Iliad: Achilles is as deadly as everyone else, and Homer explicitly tells us that this is the case. He does not owe his strength to the Styx River rituals performed by his mother during his childhood, and there is no mention of a vulnerable heel. The poem does not deal with the sack of, or the famous episode of the horse of, although the horse is alluded to in the Odyssey. Another myth holds that Helen's father, Tyndareus, feared that Helen's beauty would lead her suitors to war. To avoid war throughout Greece, she had the suitors swear to be on the side of the man chosen to be Helen's husband should she be kidnapped. There's no mention of this story anywhere in the Iliad. And another well-known story tells us that the Achea warfleet gathered in Aulis and could not sail because of the wrath of the goddess Artemis. To appease the goddess, Agamemnon sacrificed his daughter, Hyphigenia. Once again, myth is not part of Homer's story. Either he lived before these myths evolved or he did not find them suitable for his purposes. Archaeological evidence suggests that there was a large city near hellespont, on the site traditionally attributed to. It was destroyed by war around the 13th century BC. The Iliad probably has some basis in reality; there may have been a massive campaign by Greek-speaking peoples against a large city on the coast of Asia Minor. Homer himself was a Greek who lived in one of asia minor's colonies, but his epics deal with a time when no Greek lived in Asia. Given the evidence, it seems safe to say that his work attempts to reconstruct stories of a past that was already distant. In the time before the written history, the passage of a few centuries made the accurate memory of historical events almost impossible. Homer's Iliad is therefore more myth than history, although many ancient Greeks have understood his epics as somewhat factual. The heroes of the Iliad were very real to the Greeks, holding a place in their history, as well as their literature and religion. During the period of Alexander Ma alexander, the Greeks a structure in Asia Minor as the tumulus of Achilles and Patroclus, and and often traced their descent to the heroes in the Iliad. This study guide uses Richard Lattimore's translation when referring to specific passages. However, the names used are from Robert Fagles' translation, since the Fagles version uses the name forms that are most familiar to the modern English language reader. 1. Does the book open during the year of the War of? The tenth year. 2. Who is the priest whom Achilles invites to see what needs to be done to appease Apollo? Mr Kalchas. 3. Who are the two beautiful women who are captured as war prizes? Crissei and Briseis. 4. Who was the mortal man responsible for the plague against the army? Agamemnon. 5. Who calls Agamemnon greedy for profit and shameless? Achille. 6. Who prevents Achilles from killing Agamemnon? Athena. 7. Who is Pylos's wise leader trying to prevent Achilles and Agamemnon from quarrelling? Nestor. 8. Who is Achilles' mother? Thetis. 9. Who accompanies Chryseis home? Odysseus. 10. What Is Thetis? Sea nymph. (Read all 180 short-answer questions and answers) This section contains 4,860 words (about 17 pages to 300 words per page) Welcome to the LitCharts study guide on Homer's Iliad. Created by the original team behind SparkNotes, LitCharts are the best literary guides in the world. Practically nothing is known about Homer's life. Many people believe that no such person has ever existed, and that Homer is a pseudonym who uneases the works of many authors of various periods of time. Others believe he was a blind court singer in the 8th century BC. The events described in the Iliad refer to the War of , a semi-mythical conflict that is supposed to have been conducted between 1300 and 1100 BC. For Homer, the events of the war would have taken place a long time ago. The facts of the war would have been plotted through the ancient Greek oral tradition, to which the Iliad owes much. Whether or not the Iliad refers to real events is still an open question, which is the subject of heated debate. The Odyssey, another epic poem attributed to Homer, also follows the cycle of myths about homer's war. The Odyssey takes place after the events of the Iliad, focusing on the troubled return home of hero Ulysses from. The two epic poems together are the oldest examples of epic poem form in Western literature, and are generally regarded as the earliest literary works of Greek antiquity. Key facts about The Iliad Full Title: The Iliad When Written: Uncertain, but recently dated to around 710-760 BC. Where written: Unknown When Published: Manuscripts existed throughout antiquity. The oldest surviving copy is from the 10th century AD. Literary period: Classic (Ancient Greek) Genre: Epic Poem Setting: The City of and its Outskirts, located on the northwest coast (today Turkey) Climax: The Killing of Hector by Achilles Antagonist: Hector, Paris, Apollo, Aphrodite Point of View: Aphrodite: Aphrodite: Omniscient person The Epic Cycle: Along with the Iliad and the Odyssey, there were several other ancient Greek poems that focused on the events of the War of, compiling events not mentioned in the Homeopic epics. Titles included Cypria, Aethiopis and Little Iliad. It is often suggested that these works were written after the two Epic Homers, and most of them are much shorter than Homer's masterpieces. Altogether they formed a narrative of the war, known as the Epic Cycle. However, all epic cycle texts have been lost, with only fragments remaining. The cult of Homer: Homer's epics were considered the fundamental works of ancient Greek literature and culture. Worship for Homer was so great that in some places he was almost revered as a god. Shrines dedicated to Homer have been discovered, and it is thought to have been the subject of what is now known as an ancient Greek hero cult, a religious practice dedicated to individuals who were considered larger than men, but not entirely gods. Of.

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