

Black Ships Before Troy Questions

Directions: Answer the following questions using information from the text.

Chapter 1: The Golden Apple

1. In the book, who are

Eris:

Aphrodite:

Hera:

Athene:

Peleus:

Thetis:

2. Why isn't Eris originally invited to the wedding of Peleus and Thetis?

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- What does she do at the wedding to create problems between Aphrodite, Hera, and Athene?

She threw down a Golden Apple that said, "To the fairest" which caused a fight among the goddesses. They all are vain.

3. Who is Paris?

How does he come to live in the woods with Oenone?

4. Who does Paris give the apple to?

- What does he get in return?

5. Using words from the text, describe Helen in detail.

Who is she?

Who is she married to?

Why does she leave with Paris?

6. Important Quote: "But the immortal gods do not know time as mortals." Please explain what this means.

Other important names/ places to recognize from this chapter.

- **Myrmidons** - Members of warlike Thessalian (A region of east-central Greece between the Pindus Mountains and the Aegean Sea) people who were ruled by Achilles and followed him on the expedition against Troy.
- **Aegean Sea** - An arm of the Mediterranean Sea off southeast Europe between Greece and Turkey.
- **Troy** - An ancient ruined city in NW Turkey
- **Mt Ida** - A mountain in W. Turkey, SE of ancient Troy
- **Black Sea** - A sea between Europe and Asia
- **Zeus** - King of the Gods
- **Priam & Hecuba** - Paris's parents
- **Oenone** - Wood nymph - Paris's love before Helen
- **King Menelaus** - King of Sparta
- **Odysseus** - A king of Ithaca and Greek leader in the Trojan War
- **Ithaca** - Island W. Greece

Chapter 2: Ship Gathering

1. What does Menelaus do when he finds out that Helen left with Paris?

2. Who is Achilles?

- What is the one spot on his body that was not touched by the River Styx?
- How does Achilles's mother hide him?
- How is he tricked out of hiding?

3. Important Quote: "Short life and long fame for me." - Who said it and what does it mean?

Other important names/ places to recognize from this chapter.

- **Agamemnon** - High king over Greece, Menelaus's brother.
- **Mycenae** - An Ancient Greek city in the northeast Peloponnese that flourished during the Bronze Age.
- **Greek Soldiers and Leaders Against Troy:** Nestor, Ajax, Diomedes, Idomeneus
- **Styx** - River in the underworld
- **Patroclus** - Achilles's companion
- **Chiron** - Wisest of the Centaurs
- **Isle of Scyros** - An island in Greece
- **King Lycomedes** - King of Scyros who hides Achilles
- **Calchas** - Most famous soothsayer

- **Hephaestus** - Blacksmith of the gods

Chapter 3: Quarrel with the High King

1. Why does a fever come to the Greek camps?

2. Who does Achilles argue with? Over what?

- What does he swear to do?
- What does he tell his mother to do?

Other important names/ places to recognize from this chapter.

- Prince Protesilaus
- Hector - Trojan prince and war leader
- Chryseis & Briseis - Maidens caught during the war and made slaves to Agamemnon and Achilles
- Apollo - Sun God

Chapter 4: Single Combat

1. How does Zeus try to convince Agamemnon to attack Troy?

- What is Agamemnon's reaction to Zeus's ploy? (pg. 23)

2. How does Agamemnon test the temper of his "army"?

- What is the army's reaction?
- What's Odysseus's reaction. (pg. 24 - 25)

3. Who is Paris afraid of?

- Once Hector helps Paris regain his courage, what is the bargain struck up between him and Menelaus? (pgs. 26)

4. How does Aphrodite intervene during the battle between Menelaus and Paris? (pgs. 28 - 29)

Chapter 5: The Women of Troy

1. How does Athene affect relations between Troy and Greece? (pgs. 32-33)

2. What is Hector's role in the battle with Greece? (pg. 34+)

3. How does the chapter end?

Chapter 6: The High King's Embassy

1. What is Athene's reaction to the Trojan's rally against the Greeks? (pg. 41)

2. How did the battle end between Ajax and Hector? (pgs. 42-43)

3. Describe what happens once the battle resumes.

What does Diomedes do?

What about Zeus?

How does Agamemnon feel? (pgs. 43-45)

4. What is Nestor's idea?

How does Agamemnon react?

Who is to carry out this plan?

5. How does Achilles's react to his guests and their proposition?

Why do you think Achilles's reacts this way?

Chapter 7: The Horses of King Rhesus

1. What idea does Menelaus have on how to obtain information about Troy's strategies?
2. Who is Dolan?

What do Odysseus and Diomedes learn from him? (pg 52-53)

3. How does the chapter end?

Chapter 8: Red Rain

1. What is the omen that Zeus sends to the Greeks and how do they respond? (pg. 56-57)
2. What happens to Agamemnon in battle?

How does Hector respond? (p. 58)

3. What happens to Diomedes and Odysseus? (pgs. 58-59)
4. What happens to Machaon?

What does old Nestor think Patroclus should do? (pgs. 60-61).

Chapter 9: Battle of the Ships

1. How do Zeus and Poseidon intervene? (pgs. 66-67)
2. How does the chapter end?

Chapter 10: The Armor of Achilles

1. What does Patroclus ask of Achilles?

How does Achilles respond? (pg. 70)

2. Why does Achilles pray to Zeus?

How does Zeus respond, and what do you think this means for the Greeks and / or the Trojans? (pg. 71)

3. Why is Zeus so upset when Sarpedon dies?

What does he do in response? (pg. 72)

4. Describe Patroclus's death. What are the last words he says to Hector? (pgs 73-74)

5. How does the chapter end?

Chapter 11: Vengeance for Patroclus:

1. What does Achilles's do when he hears about the death of Patroclus?

What does his mother, Thetis, want to bring him? (pg. 77)

2. What does Achilles's horse warn him of?

3. How does Achilles and Hector's confrontation end?

Include who Hector says will avenge him? (pgs. 81-83)

4. What roles do honor and dishonor play in this chapter?

Chapters 12 and 13: Funeral Games & Ransom for Hector

1. Describe Patroclus's burial and the games that followed. Be specific, identifying the type of games they played and their winners. (pg. 85 - 88)

2. Describe what happens at the end of the chapter. (pg. 89 - 90)

3. Describe how the Gods intervene in the beginning of Chapter 13 (pg. 91 - 93)

4. Describe the exchange between Achilles and Priam.

What does Priam give Achilles for Hector's body?

5. Describe Hector's burial. (pgs. 93 - 96)

Chapters 14 & 15 The Luck of Troy & Warrior Women

1. Why does Odysseus pose as a beggar?

How does he get into Troy? (pgs. 98 - 100)

2. How does Helen find out that the beggar is really Odysseus?

What does she do when she finds out? (pgs. 102 - 104)

3. Is Odysseus successful in his mission?

How does he get out of Troy? (pgs. 105 - 107)

4. Who are the women warriors?

How does it end for them?

Other important names/ places to recognize from this chapter.

* **Ares** - God of war

* **Penthesilea** - Young queen of the Amazons.

Chapters 16 & 17: The Death of Achilles & Poisoned Arrow

1. How did Achilles intervene the battle between Memnon and Antilochus? (pgs. 115 - 116)

2. How is Achilles fatally wounded, and by whom?

What is his response?

3. How did the Greeks respond to Ajax's death?

What did Calchas say he had to do? (pgs. 123 - 124)

5. In what condition do Odysseus and Diomedes find Philoctetes?

How does Philoctetes end up helping? (pgs. 124 - 127)

Chapter 18: The Wooden Horse

1. What was the wooden horse trick? (Explain how it was carried out)

Chapter 19: The Fall of Troy

1. What is the irony involving Helen's departure in this chapter?