This year’s summer assignment asks you to read the prequel to Aeneas’s wanderings and peregrinations to Italy after the Trojan War. *The Iliad*, which means the story of Ilion (we know this city-state as Troy), chronicles the battle between the Greeks and the Trojans and survives as a classic tale of honor, divine intervention, and tragedy, and the final six books of the *Aeneid* are modeled after this epic.

Your assignment will consist of two parts:

**Part I: Comprehension Questions** = 35 points of test grade

**Part II: Quotes on Characters** = 40 points of test grade

Be prepared to turn in all work on the first day of school, or your first day of attendance.

**Note:** This assignment is to be completed individually with no collaboration from another student, online source, or print source. Not complying with this will be considered an Honor offence.

You may obtain a copy of the book by purchasing your own copy, finding it in a library, or checking out a copy from Ms. Bowman. You may use either the Robert Fagles translation or the Robert Fitzgerald translation of *The Iliad*. The forms that this book comes in look like this:

While it would be great for you to read the entirety of *The Iliad*, you are required to have at least the following books read by the first class:

- Books 1-3 (skip catalog of captains/leaders in Book 2, lines 484-end (starting at line 579 in Fitzgerald, 584 in Fagles)
- Book 6
- Book 9
- Books 15-24

Total = Approximately 300 pages
Reading Comprehension Questions

Book I

1. Why did Apollo send “deadly arrows” against the Achaeans?

2. What does Agamemnon do to Achilles that causes his great anger?

3. How does Achilles respond to Agamemnon’s insult?

Book II

4. What is Zeus’ message (in Agamemnon’s dream), and can it be trusted?

5. How does Agamemnon test the warriors?

6. Do the warriors pass the test?

Book III

7. Where is the duel fought?

8. Who has the upper hand in the fighting?

9. How does the duel end and who is declared the winner?
Summaries for Books IV and V can be found at the end of this assignment.

Book VI

10. Why Does Menelaus pause before killing Adrestos and does he spare him?

11. What is Nestor’s advice to the Achaeans?

12. Why does Andromache plead with Hector not to return to battle?

Summaries for Books VII and VIII can be found at the end of this assignment.

Book IX

13. What does Agamemnon offer to give Achilles?

14. How does Achilles react?

Summaries for Books X – XIV can be found at the end of this assignment.

Book XV

15. What is Hera’s plan?

16. How successful is Hera’s plan?

Book XVI

17. What does Patroclus ask of Achilles and how does he respond?

18. When Hector and the Trojan army retreat, what happens to Patroclus?
19. How does Athena intervene to help Meneleus?

20. How does Achilles react to the news of the death of Patroclus?

21. What does Thetis tell Achilles about his fate?

22. Why does Achilles reconcile with Agamemnon?

23. What does Agamemnon offer Achilles?

24. What warning does Apollo give Hector regarding Achilles?

25. Does he act accordingly?

26. What is the result of the duel between Aeneas and Achilles?

27. How devastating is Achilles’s attack on the Trojan army?
Book XXII

28. How does Hector die?

29. What does Achilles do to Hector’s body?

Book XXIII

30. Why does Achilles cut off his hair?

31. What is the significance of the act?

Book XXIV

32. How does Priam move safely through the Achaean camp to Achilles?

33. What does Priam talk about that moves Achilles to tears?
**Character Quotes**

**Part I:** Find quotes that describe who that character is, what they do, what they believe, and what they think. Also look for Epithets, or nicknames (i.e. Odysseus, the great tactician). Make sure to provide page numbers for all quotes. You will not receive full credit if you do not cite your source. Write the page numbers only in parenthesis—for example (123).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>1.</th>
<th>2.</th>
<th>3.</th>
<th>4.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achilles</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agamemnon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meneleus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hector</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As you read…

Think about the following themes:
“The importance of duty and honor”
“The tragic effects of war”
“The influence of divine intervention.”

These are themes that will resonate in the *Aeneid*. Have some examples in mind, as we will discuss these themes when we meet.
Also consider the term *aristeia*. The *aristeia* of a warrior is that warrior's greatest battle, in which he (or she) reaches his (or her) peak as a fighter and hero. Many characters throughout *The Iliad* have an *aristeia*, and the *Aeneid* shares this quality.

**Summaries of Books Not Required¹:**

**Book IV Summary**
The gods meet in conference on Olympos. Zeus proposes that because Menelaos has obviously won the duel, the long, nine-year war be brought to a close. Hera and Athena dislike this course of action, and Hera, in particular, vehemently protests to Zeus. She wants the complete destruction of Troy, a city she bitterly hates. She wants no truce. Zeus gives in and sends Athena to somehow arrange a resumption of the fighting.

At Troy, Athena seeks out Pandaros, one of the Trojan leaders, and tempts him to kill Menelaos, thereby gaining great glory. Pandaros foolishly acts on her advice and draws his bow, as the truce is still in effect. He shoots an arrow at Menelaos, but Athena makes sure that it *only wounds* Menelaos because she doesn't want him dead, but she does want the battle to begin anew. Agamemnon and the Achaians are shocked by this violation of the truce and by the seemingly serious injury to Menelaos. Fortunately, the wound is not fatal, but while an army surgeon is treating it, several of the Trojan regiments begin to advance suddenly in battle order.

Agamemnon immediately orders his troops to prepare to fight, and he goes through the ranks of his army, praising the men. The Achaians respond to their king's spirit and they eagerly and cheerfully arm themselves and fall into line. The war begins again. The two armies clash violently, and large numbers of men on both sides are killed.

**Book V Summary**
The battle continues with great fury, and both armies perform many acts of valor. During this particular day's fighting, the outstanding warrior is Diomedes, whom the goddess Athena has inspired with exceptional courage and skill.

When Pandaros (who wounded Menelaos) wounds Diomedes, the valiant Achaian soldier appeals to Athena for aid. She answers him by giving him additional courage, plus the privilege of being able to distinguish gods from men. She warns him, however, not to fight against any of the gods — with the exception of Aphrodite.

Diomedes returns to the front line and drives the Trojans back before him. He kills many Trojans, including Pandaros, and then he wounds Aeneas, the son of the goddess Aphrodite. Diomedes takes the splendid horses of Aeneas as a war prize and is about to finish off Aeneas himself when Aphrodite comes down to protect her son. Enraged at Aphrodite's interference, Diomedes pursues her and wounds her in the hand. With tears streaming down her face, Aphrodite flees in terror to Olympos and seeks solace from Dione, her mother. Zeus is angry at this turn of events and orders Aphrodite to stay off the battlefield in the future because warfare is not the same as love, her usual sphere of interest. Meanwhile, Apollo carries Aeneas off to safety in the temple at Pergamos.

Ares, the savage god of war, enters the Trojan ranks and helps Hektor rally his forces. With his aid, Hektor and the Trojan army again attempt to advance. But the Achaians, led by Diomedes and other Achaian heroes, are able to hold their ground. As the bloody battle progresses, however, the strong and brutal influence of Ares is felt, and the Achaians gradually begin to withdraw toward their camp.

---

¹ Summaries provided by CliffNotes and SparkNotes
Hera and Athena then fly to the aid of the Achaians, after gaining permission from Zeus to bring Ares under control. On the plains before Troy, Hera gives fresh strength to the Achaians while Athena brings the now-wounded Diomedes back to the fray. She advises him to have no fear of Ares or any other god. Diomedes gallops into combat, encounters Ares, and drives a spear into his belly. With a bellow of pain and fury, Ares leaves the field and heads for Olympos.

Finding Zeus, Ares complains about the harsh treatment he has received, but the god of war gets no sympathy from Zeus. Zeus tells him that because of his quarrelsome and cruel nature, he has no love for him, but because he is a god, his wound will heal. Athena and Hera then return to the Olympian palace, and the battle between the Achaians and the Trojans continues to rage, but now there are no gods fighting on either side.

**Book VII Summary**
Hektor and Paris rejoin the Trojan forces, and the battle begins again. Athena and Apollo, after witnessing the continued slaughter, decide to end the day's combat by arranging a duel between Hektor and one of the best Achaian warriors. The time consumed by this duel will result in a recess for both armies.

The Greeks cast lots and Telamonian Aias is chosen as the Achaian champion. He and Hektor engage in a ferocious duel, but neither warrior is able to overcome the other. Finally, because it is growing dark, the two men are parted by heralds, and they exchange gifts as tokens of their respective valor.

That night, each of the armies has a feast celebrating the safe return of its champion. In the Achaian camp, Nestor proposes that a short truce be arranged so that funerals for the dead can be held; he also wants to use this time for his fellow Achaians to build a wall and a trench to defend their ships.

In Troy that same evening, one of the Trojan noblemen, Antenor, suggests that Helen be returned to Menelaos. Paris refuses to give up his new wife, but he offers to restore all of Helen's property to Menelaos, plus some of his own as an indemnity. Wise old Priam, Hektor's father, sends a messenger to Agamemnon with this proposition, as well as a request for a truce during which the Trojans can bury their dead. The Achaians refuse the offer by Paris, but both sides agree on the truce.

The next morning, the two armies collect their dead and conduct the funeral rites. At a council on Olympos, Zeus warns the gods that he is at last planning to bring the Trojan War to a finish and that any interference in favor of either side will be punished severely. However, when Athena asks to be allowed to advise the Achaians, Zeus consents.

**Book VIII Summary**
In the morning, the Trojan forces come out of the city and the armies clash again. Zeus watches over the fighting from nearby Mount Ida and decides to give the day's victory to Troy. A furious battle ensues, and soon the Achaians are driven from the field in complete disorder. Most of the commanders flee also, and old Nestor is saved from Hektor's spear only by the courage of Diomedes.

Hera, who has always been a fanatical hater of the Trojans, tries to convince Poseidon to join her in helping the Achaians. The sea god, however refuses.

Hektor is everywhere, fighting bravely and cheering on his men. Hera and Athena prepare to intervene, but Zeus notices their approach. He repeats his earlier warning through his messenger, Iris, and the goddesses return to Olympos. Meanwhile, the Achaian forces are driven back behind the fortifications protecting their ships.
Hektor orders his army to camp on the plain for the night to prevent the Achaians from sailing off to safety in the darkness and to retain the advantage for the morning’s assault. Supplies are brought from Troy, and the Trojan fires burn in front of the Achaian wall.

**Book X Summary**

Agamemnon is unable to sleep because of his concern about the fate of the Achaian army. After much tossing and turning, he rises and awakens all his senior commanders. Old Nestor advises that under cover of darkness a scout be sent into the Trojan camp. With luck, this maneuver will enable them to learn the strengths, as well as the plans, of the enemy.

Diomedes volunteers to reconnoiter behind the Trojan lines, and he selects Odysseus to accompany him. The two men arm themselves and set out. In the area between the camps, they capture Dolon, a Trojan nobleman who was sent by Hektor to conduct a reconnaissance of the Achaian camp. The warriors promise Dolon that they will not harm him and from him they learn the whereabouts of Hektor and his staff, key information about the various units of the Trojan army, and the precautions that the Trojans have taken to guard the camp. Diomedes then treacherously kills the Trojan spy. The two Achaian heroes also learn that a new contingent of troops from Thrace lies asleep and unprotected on the Trojan flank. They kill many of these warriors until Apollo intervenes.

After returning to camp the two warriors take a ritual bath.

**Book XI Summary**

Agamemnon leads the Achaians into battle, and, at first, they prevail, driving the Trojans back as far as the city gates. But then, in quick succession, Agamemnon and most of the other Achaian leaders are wounded and are forced to withdraw from the fighting. The Trojans soon regain the ground they lost, and they inflict many casualties on the Achaians.

Clearly, Achilles has continued to observe the progress of the battle, and although he is unable to voice the feeling, he is obviously troubled by the dangerous predicament of his Achaian comrades-at-arms and by his own self-imposed inability to help them. But he senses with some relief that the time is drawing near when he will be able to get satisfaction for his wounded pride. Thus, he sends Patroklos to get information from old Nestor because his own pride will not allow him to show any interest in the fate of the Achaians.

In the Achaian camp, old Nestor gives Patroklos a long account of the day's events, with many reminiscences of past battles. Finally, coming to the point, he convinces Patroklos to try yet another time to persuade Achilles to return to battle against the Trojans. If Patroklos cannot do this, Nestor says, perhaps Patroklos himself could put on the armor of Achilles and join in the fighting. Nestor says that if the Trojans were to recognize the mighty Achilles' armor, they would think that Achilles had settled his dispute with Agamemnon and that he had returned to the battlefront. This strategy alone may be sufficient to save the day. Patroklos is impressed by this advice and returns to Achilles' tent.

**Book XII Summary**

We learn that the Achaean fortifications are doomed to be destroyed by the gods when Troy falls. They continue to hold for now, however, and the trench dug in front of them blocks the Trojan chariots. Undaunted, Hector, acting on the advice of the young commander Polydamas, orders his men to disembark from their chariots and storm the ramparts. Just as the Trojans prepare to cross the trenches, an eagle flies to the left-hand side of the Trojan line and drops a serpent in the soldiers’ midst. Polydamas interprets this event as a sign that their charge will fail, but Hector refuses to retreat.
The Trojans Glaucus and Sarpedon now charge the ramparts, and Menestheus, aided by Great Ajax and Teucer, struggles to hold them back. Sarpedon makes the first breach, and Hector follows by shattering one of the gates with a boulder. The Trojans pour through the fortifications as the Achaeans, terrified, shrink back against the ships.

Book XIII Summary
Zeus, happy with the war’s progress, takes his leave of the battlefield. Poseidon, eager to help the Achaeans and realizing that Zeus has gone, visits Little Ajax and Great Ajax in the form of Calchas and gives them confidence to resist the Trojan assault. He also rouses the rest of the Achaeans, who have withdrawn in tears to the sides of the ships. Their spirits restored, the Achaeans again stand up to the Trojans, and the two Aeantes (the plural of Ajax) prove successful in driving Hector back. When Hector throws his lance at Teucer, Teucer dodges out of the way, and the weapon pierces and kills Poseidon’s grandson Amphimachus. As an act of vengeance, Poseidon imbues Idomeneus with a raging power. Idomeneus then joins Meriones in leading a charge against the Trojans at the Achaeans’ left wing. Idomeneus cuts down a number of Trojan soldiers but hopes most of all to kill the warrior Deiphobus. Finding him on the battlefield, he taunts the Trojan, who summons Aeneas and other comrades to his assistance. In the long skirmish that ensues, Deiphobus is wounded, and Menelaus cuts down several Trojans.

Meanwhile, on the right, Hector continues his assault, but the Trojans who accompany him, having been mercilessly battered by the two Aeantes, have lost their vigor. Some have returned to the Trojan side of the fortifications, while those who remain fight from scattered positions. Polydamas persuades Hector to regroup his forces. Hector fetches Paris and tries to gather his comrades from the left end of the line—only to find them all wounded or dead. Great Ajax insults Hector, and an eagle appears on Ajax’s right, a favorable omen for the Achaeans.

Book XIV Summary
Nestor leaves the wounded Machaon in his tent and goes to meet the other wounded Achaean commanders out by the ships. The men scan the battlefield and realize the terrible extent of their losses. Agamemnon proposes giving up and setting sail for home. Odysseus wheels on him and declares this notion cowardly and disgraceful. Diomedes urges them all to the line to rally their troops. As they set out, Poseidon encourages Agamemnon and gives added strength to the Achaean army.

Hera spots Zeus on Mount Ida, overlooking Troy, and devises a plan to distract him so that she may help the Achaeans behind his back. She visits Aphrodite and tricks her into giving her an enchanted breastband into which the powers of Love and Longing are woven, forceful enough to make the sanest man go mad. She then visits the embodiment of Sleep, and by promising him one of her daughters in marriage, persuades him to lull Zeus to sleep. Sleep follows her to the peak of Mount Ida; disguised as a bird, he hides in a tree. Zeus sees Hera, and the enchanted band seizes him with passion. He makes love to Hera and, as planned, soon falls asleep. Hera then calls to Poseidon, telling him that he now has free rein to steer the Achaeans to victory. Poseidon regroups them, and they charge the Trojans. In the ensuing scuffle, Great Ajax knocks Hector to the ground with a boulder, and the Trojans must carry the hero back to Troy. With Hector gone, the Achaeans soon trounce their enemies, and Trojans die in great numbers as the army flees back to the city.