

Classical Civilisation Summer Work

Please complete this and bring it to your first lesson in September

Task One

We would like you to complete some research on some of the key figures involved in the Trojan War. This will prepare you for your study of both the Odyssey and the Aeneid.

Figure	Who are they?	What is their involvement in the Trojan war?
<i>Zeus/Jupiter</i>	<i>Most important god in Olympus.</i>	<i>Does not favour either side overall, but knows that it is fate that Troy will fall.</i>
<i>Hera / Juno</i>		
<i>Aphrodite / Venus</i>		
<i>Athena / Athene /Minerva/ Pallas</i>		
<i>Poseidon / Neptune</i>		
<i>Thetis</i>		
<i>Achilles</i>		
<i>Agamemnon</i>		
<i>Menelaus</i>		

<i>Hector</i>		
<i>Aeneas</i>		
<i>Helen</i>		
<i>Priam</i>		

Task Two

Read the passage below, which comes from Homer's Iliad, and answer the questions at the end of the text.

Meanwhile the whole plain filled with men, and horses, and shining bronze, and the earth rang under their feet as they advanced. Between the two armies their two champions met, ready to do battle, Aeneas, son of Anchises, and noble Achilles. Aeneas threatened first, his heavy helmet nodding, his glittering shield covering his chest, brandishing his bronze spear. Achilles charged towards him like a lion, one that a village combines eagerly to kill. The lion passes by, indifferent at first, but when a youth agile in a fight strikes it with a spear it roars and gathers itself, jaws foaming, its powerful spirit groaning within, lashing its ribs and flanks with its tail, rousing itself to fight, then rushing with glaring eyes to the attack, plunging in fury among the foremost, either to kill or be killed. So Achilles in his fury was driven by his high heart to attack brave Aeneas.

When they were close to one another, fleet-footed Achilles called to Aeneas: 'Why do you come from the ranks to challenge me, Aeneas? Do you hope by fighting me to hold power among the horse-taming Trojans, and replace Priam? He will not give way to you, even if you should kill me, since he has sons, and is strong willed, not a man to change his mind. Or perhaps the Trojans have offered you a prime piece of land, a fine tract of ploughed fields and orchards, as a prize if you slay me? That, I think, you may find hard to do. Do I not recall a previous time, when you ran before my spear, all alone, abandoning the herd, running for dear life down the slopes of Ida? I don't remember you once looking back. You fled to Lyrnessus, but I sacked the place, with the help of Father Zeus and Athene, and I led away the women, and robbed them of their freedom, though you yourself were saved by Zeus and the other gods. Yet I think they'll let you die today, not save you as you think. Go back to the ranks I urge you, don't try to face me now, to your detriment. Even a fool can learn from the past.'

Aeneas answered him: 'Son of Peleus, I am no child frightened with words, I know how to speak myself, both truths and taunts. We know each other's pedigree and parents, and though I have never set eyes on yours nor you on mine, we have heard the tales men have

told of them. They say you are peerless Peleus' son and your mother is long-haired Thetis, the sea's daughter, while I boast brave Anchises for my father, and Aphrodite herself is my mother. One pair or the other shall mourn a dear son this day, for I say we shall not part and leave the field without exchanging more than these few childish words.

'Now let us cease from childish talk, here in the midst of war. We could both utter insults enough to sink a hundred-benched sailing ship. The mortal tongue is glib, and many and various the speeches over its wide domain. Whatever we utter: that we may also hear returned to us. So why stand here like angry women in the street caught up in some bitter wrangle, exchanging hostile and contentious words, truths or lies regardless? Such is my desire for glory, your words will not deter me from fighting you man to man, so come, let us try our bronze-tipped spears.'

Aeneas then hurled his great spear against Achilles' formidable and unearthly shield and the metal rang. The son of Peleus, alarmed, held the shield away from his body with his strong hand, thinking brave Aeneas' long-shadowed spear would pierce it, a ridiculous fear, forgetting that the gods' fine gifts of weapons are hard for mortal men to conquer or avoid. Though the heavy spear sank in, a layer of gold set there by Hephaestus held it. The lame god had welded five layers, two of bronze, two inside of tin, and one between of gold. Though Aeneas drove the spear through the first two, there were three left, and the ash spear was stopped by the gold.

Achilles now cast his long-shadowed spear, striking Aeneas' well-balanced shield on the rim where the bronze and ox-hide backing were thinnest. The shield rang as the shaft of Pelian ash pierced it, stripping two layers away. As Aeneas crouching thrust the shield from him fearfully, both flew over his back and the spear stuck in the earth, its fury spent. Having escaped the long shaft, Aeneas stood, his eyes glazed with fear for a moment, appalled by the closeness of the blow, but Achilles gave his war-cry and attacked furiously with his keen sword. Aeneas grasped a stone, a great feat since it was one that no two men of our day could lift, yet he wielded it easily, alone. He might have struck Achilles as he attacked, on the helmet or the shield that had kept him from harm, but the son of Peleus would have had Aeneas' life, his sword so near about to strike, if Poseidon, Earth-Shaker, had not been watching.

He spoke to the gods, quickly, saying; 'Now I fear for brave Aeneas, who will descend to the halls of Hades, slain by that son of Peleus, simply for listening, foolishly, to the Far-Striker's words. Apollo will not save him from destruction. Why should an innocent man, who always makes fine offerings to us rulers of the heavens, suffer harm because of another's quarrel? Let us rescue him, and avoid Zeus's anger were Achilles to kill him, for Aeneas is destined to live on, so that Dardanus' race itself might survive, Dardanus whom Zeus loved above all his children by mortal women. The Son of Cronos has come to hate Priam's line, and mighty Aeneas will be the Trojan king, as his descendants will in time to come.'

It was ox-eyed Queen Hera who answered him: 'Earth-Shaker you must choose whether to rescue him or let him die, brave though he is, at the hands of Achilles, Peleus' son. Pallas Athene and I have always sworn before you all never to save the Trojans from evil, not even when all Troy burns, consumed by the blazing fire those warlike sons of Achaea will light within.'

On hearing this, Poseidon, Earth-Shaker, plunged through the midst of battle and the hail of spears, towards the space where Aeneas and Achilles fought. In a moment, he veiled Achilles' eyes in mist, plucked the ash spear shod with bronze from brave Aeneas' pierced shield, and set it down at Achilles' feet, then lifted Aeneas and swung him into the air, high over the ranks of warriors and lines of chariots, so that with the power of the god's hand he came to earth on the far edge of the field, where the Caucones were about to join the fight.

Then Poseidon, Earth-Shaker, at his side, spoke to him with winged words: 'Aeneas, what god has set you on blindly to fight with the proud son of Peleus, who is a greater warrior than you, and dearer to the gods? When you see him, draw back, lest you reach the house of Hades before your time. When Achilles meets his fate, when he is dead, then fight courageously at the front, for no other Greek can kill you.'

When he had imparted all he wished, Poseidon left Aeneas there, and swiftly dispelled the strange mist from Achilles' eyes. The warrior gazed fixedly about him, and murmured to himself in agitation: 'A wonder indeed! Here is my spear lying on the ground, but where is the man I hurled it towards, to kill him? I thought his claims were idle boasts, but the immortals must love this Aeneas, too. Well, let him go. He'll be so glad to have cheated death he'll not dare to try me again. Now let me call to the warlike Greeks, and we shall try the Trojans instead.'

1. How does Homer characterise Achilles in this passage? Write down one quotation which you think is particularly effective, and explain how it creates his character

2. How is Aeneas presented here? Can you identify one similarity and one difference between him and Achilles?

3. What role do the gods seem to have in this war? In particular, how powerful do you think they are?

4. What signs are there in this passage that these events are taking place in a mythical version of history?

5. Which part of this passage do you think is most effective in creating character?

Extension Task: Listen to the podcast on the Iliad from the BBC's *In Our Time* - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b0bh5x1y> What did you learn from this that you did not already know?

Classical Civilisation: Course Outline

Exam Board: OCR

Unit One: The World of the Hero

Study of *The Odyssey* and *The Aeneid* focusing on:

- Literary techniques and composition
- The heroic world: characterisation and themes
- The social, cultural and religious context

Unit Two: Greek Theatre

Study of *The Frogs*, *The Bacchae* and *Oedipus the King* plus visual sources, focusing on:

- Drama and the theatre in ancient Athenian society
- Nature of tragedy
- Nature of (old) comedy
- Literary techniques, structure, and dramatic conventions
- Social, political and religious themes in tragedy and comedy

Unit Three: Love and Relationships

Study of philosophy of Seneca and Plato, plus poetry of Sappho and Ovid's *Ars Amatoria*, with a focus on ancient attitudes to:

- love and desire
- men and women
- sex
- marriage
- society and values