

# THE TROJAN WAR

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**Summer Reading Guide  
Prologue Analysis  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Literature  
Mr. Mahoney**

*Things to keep track of as you read:*

### Quick timeline of Ancient Greece:

#### Heroic Greece: 1200 B. C.

- The four heroes immediately before the Trojan War: Hercules, Theseus, Perseus, Jason and the Argonauts
- The age of the Trojan War is known as the *Mycenaean* Age: the great king was Agamemnon, the great warrior was Achilles, and the other great figure was Odysseus. These looked to Hercules, Theseus, etc. as their immediate but greater ancestors.
- Greece seemed to be overrun by barbarians and a dark age ensued. The stories of the Trojan War had been orally recited and worked by bards for 400 years when Homer composed the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*.

#### The age of Homer: 800 B. C.

- **It was at this time that the two most influential stories, in the form of *epic poems*, were composed by Homer: Homer's *Iliad* and Homer's *Odyssey***

#### Classical Greece: 450 B. C.

- Athens, the wars with the Persians, Pericles, Socrates, and Plato and Aristotle in the next generation

The Trojan War      I. Prologue      1. The Golden Apple

After reading "The Golden Apple" (pgs. 3-11) answer the following:

**CHARACTER CATALOGUE: Who are they?**

Briefly describe each character and what they do in "The Golden Apple"

Zeus -

Thetis -

Peleus -

Hera -

Athene -

Aphrodite -

Priam -

Hecuba -

Paris (Alexandros) –

**QUOTATIONS: Who said it?**

*Identify:*

1.) "For the Fairest."

What is for the fairest?

\_\_\_\_\_

Who is the fairest? \_\_\_\_\_

2.) "What is the life of one child against the welfare of all?"

Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_



c.) Aphrodite:

The Trojan War I. Prologue 2.

Helen

After reading "Helen" (pgs. 12-15) answer the following:

## **CHARACTER CATALOGUE: Who are they?**

*Briefly describe each character and what they do in "Helen"*

**Menelaus -**

**Hector –**

**Helen –**

## **QUOTATIONS: Who said it?**

*Identify:*

- 1.) "When he stands beside Helen, my wife, they will make the most beautiful couple that has ever been seen upon earth."

Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_

Who will stand beside Helen? \_\_\_\_\_

- 2.) "Hector's gift is prowess in war. Mine is mere grace and beauty, yet you should not despise it, since it alone is not born of practice, but comes unsought

**direct from the blessed gods. No man can win it to whom it has not been given."**

Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_

Why should his gift not be despised? \_\_\_\_\_

Could Hector's gift be won without being given by the gods? If so, how? \_\_\_\_\_

**3.) "I promised you the fairest woman in all the world to wife."**

Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Reading Comprehension Questions** *for "Helen"*

1.) What was Hector's attitude toward his brother Paris' skill in music?

2.) Why did Menelaus not feel threatened by Paris' beauty? Why did he have no fear that his beautiful wife would be tempted by Paris?

3.) Name two ways in which Paris wronged Menelaus.

*The Trojan War I.*                      *Prologue 3.*                      *The Madness of*  
*Odysseus*

*After reading "The Madness of Odysseus" (pgs. 16-21) answer the following:*

**CHARACTER CATALOGUE: Who are they?**

*Briefly describe each character and what they do in "The Madness of Odysseus"*

Agamemnon -

Penelope -

Palamedes-

**QUOTATIONS: Who said it?**

*Identify:*

*"Must get on with the plowing. Must be done by dark."*

Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_

What is he plowing? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is he sowing? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **Reading Comprehension Questions** for *"The Madness of Odysseus"*

1. How did Helen's father ensure that her chosen husband would be the most powerful man in Greece? How did this help Menelaus when he needed to rescue Helen?

2. Why was Odysseus unwilling to go to war in Troy on behalf of Menelaus?

3. Name some characteristics of Odysseus.



4. How did Odysseus plan to avoid going to Troy?

5. How did Palamedes spoil Odysseus' plan?

6. What was Palamedes' final fate? In what way was Odysseus blamed for this fate?