

"A competition for a golden apple and two lovers;  
I'm amazed how such small things can have  
such massive results." Jacob, 12



# THE ILIAD

It is the ninth year of the siege of Troy by the Greeks.  
Will the fighting go on for ever?

Achilles, the greatest of Greek heroes, is angered by Agamemnon and decides to withdraw from the battle. What is the reason for his wrath? Is there anything that will make him change his mind and return to the battlefield?

Both armies have suffered tremendous losses, and the long war seems to be heading towards a stalemate. The Greeks, however, have an ingenious stratagem that may well determine the outcome of the war.

Brave warriors, noble heroes, women of divine beauty and envious gods moved by human passions come alive in this wonderful retelling of the most famous epic war story of all time.



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THE ILIAD  
Homer

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Retold by Beatrice Sampatakou  
Illustrated by Thanos Tsilis



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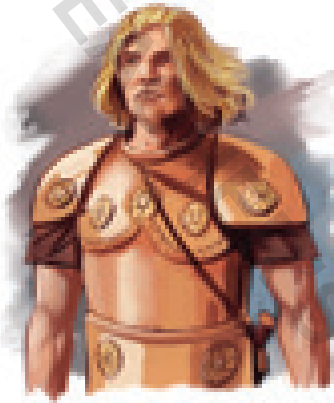
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# THE CHARACTERS



## Achilles

Fearless Achilles is the most famous of Greek warriors. His mother, the nymph Thetis, thought she had made him immortal, but is he truly invulnerable?

## Hector

The eldest son of King Priam is the leader of the Trojans and their greatest fighter. Will he succeed in saving Troy?



## Paris

Courage is not among the gifts of Hector's younger brother Paris. Will this handsome Prince Charming be the cause of Troy's downfall?



## Helen of Troy

The most beautiful woman in the world leaves her husband Menelaus for Paris, so sparking a mighty war. Is this what the gods had planned?

## Menelaus and Agamemnon

Brothers and powerful kings of Greece, one summons their great army and the other leads it. So why is there dissatisfaction in the ranks?

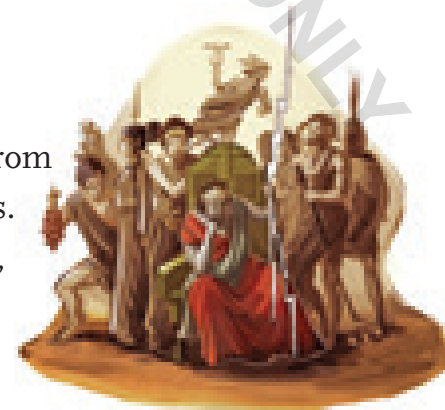


## Patroclus

Patroclus chooses to fight in the place of his dearest companion Achilles – is that a wise choice?

## The Olympian Gods

The deities do not just watch from above; each has their favourites. Which will support the Greeks, and which the Trojans?





## THE ILIAD

Chryses stumbled along the seashore, his eyes blurred by tears of rage and anguish. Neither his white hair, nor the agony he felt as a father, had melted the arrogance of Agamemnon, king and commander of the Greeks. Agamemnon had remained unmoved by the handsome ransom Chryses had offered to buy his daughter Cryseis' freedom, and had scorned Chryses' golden mace, the staff he carried as a priest of Apollo.

Chryses' ears still rang with the insult of the king's answer – 'Old man, if I see you hanging around our ships again, even Apollo's mace will not save you. I will never release your daughter. When the war ends I shall take her to my palace in Argos where she will grow old, passing her days at the loom and her nights in my chamber. If you value your life, go now!'

Frightened and humiliated, Chryses slowly made his way home. For nine years now the Greeks had camped along this shoreline, laying siege to the great walled city of Troy. His dear daughter had been kidnapped in one of the frequent raids made by the Greeks. In utter despair Chryses cried out to the god Apollo, 'Son of Leto with your silver bow, protector of our cities, if ever you have rejoiced in the glorious temple I built for you and the countless sacrifices I have offered, make the Greeks pay for these bitter tears I shed!'

Apollo heard the supplications of his faithful priest, and flew in a fury from Mount Olympus, the abode of the gods. He took up position opposite the Greek ships, readied his bow, and made true and deadly aim. For nine days and nine nights Apollo's arrows devastated the Greek camp, slaying so many that the funeral pyres of the dead burned incessantly. On the tenth day Achilles called the Greeks to council, and asked the seer Calchas to identify the source of this calamity.



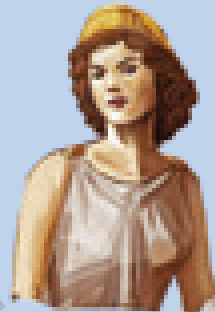
## The Greek gods

Also known as 'The Olympians' because their home was the high Mount Olympus, the Greek gods were imagined as super-humans who could control the lives of ordinary mortals. Of the twelve gods of Mount Olympus, these are the ones who appear most often in *The Iliad*:



Athena, daughter of Zeus  
(the ruler of the gods)

Aphrodite,  
the goddess of love



Hera, Zeus's wife



Ares, the god of war

Apollo, the god of  
light and truth



Hephaestus,  
the god of fire

