

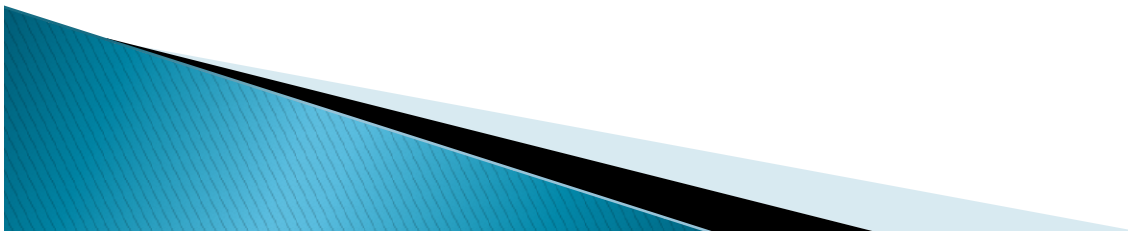


Iliad

By Homer

Iliad

- ▶ *Iliad* means “a poem of Ilium.”
- ▶ The *Iliad* is an epic poem written by the Greek poet Homer. It tells the story of the last year of the Trojan War fought between the city of Troy and the Greeks.
- ▶ It is estimated that the *Iliad* was written around the 8th century BC.
- ▶ The *Iliad* has 15,693 lines.



Greek Gods and Goddesses

- ▶ Goddesses and gods play a major role in the *Iliad*. They support different sides, giving their human favorites advice and help.

- ▶ Ares (Mars)
- ▶ Apollo
- ▶ Aphrodite (Venus)

- ▶ Athene (Minerva)
- ▶ Hera (Juno)
- ▶ Poseidon (Neptune)

Trojan Supporters

Greek Supporters

- ▶ Zeus tries to remain neutral.

How the Trojan War Started

- ▶ **Wedding of Peleus and Thetis** (grandson to Zeus and a sea nymph)
- ▶ Eris – goddess of discord, not invited
- ▶ Eris crashes party – starts trouble
- ▶ Golden apple – “*To the fairest*”
- ▶ Hera, Athena, Aphrodite – claim it



The Feast of Peleus by Sir Edward Burne-Jones (1833–1898)

The Judgment of Paris



El Juicio de Paris by Enrique Simonet, c. 1904.

- ▶ Hera's offer: "I will make you ruler of all Asia and give you all the wealth that you desire."
- ▶ Athene's offer: "I will give you wisdom and prudence, and you will win every battle."
- ▶ Aphrodite's offer: "I will give you the most beautiful woman in the world."

Paris chooses Aphrodite



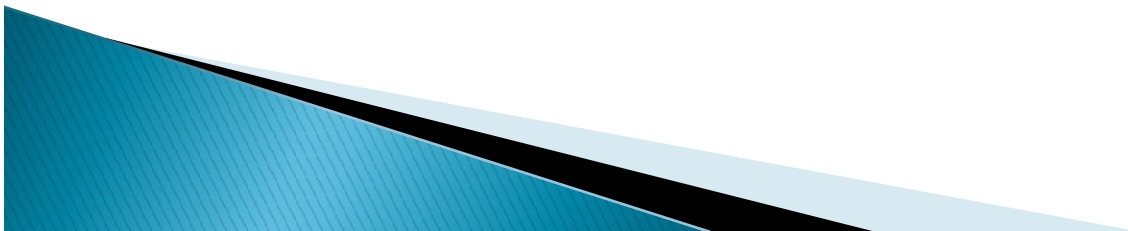
There's just one little problem...

- ▶ The most beautiful woman in the world is Helen...

and she's married.

Paris visits Helen and Menelaus

- ▶ Welcomed as a guest
- ▶ Kidnaps Helen
- ▶ Menelaus – raises army from suitors
- ▶ Agamemnon – Menelaus's brother leads expedition
- ▶ Achilles – greatest Greek warrior
 - son of Peleus and Thetis
 - invulnerable, except for heel



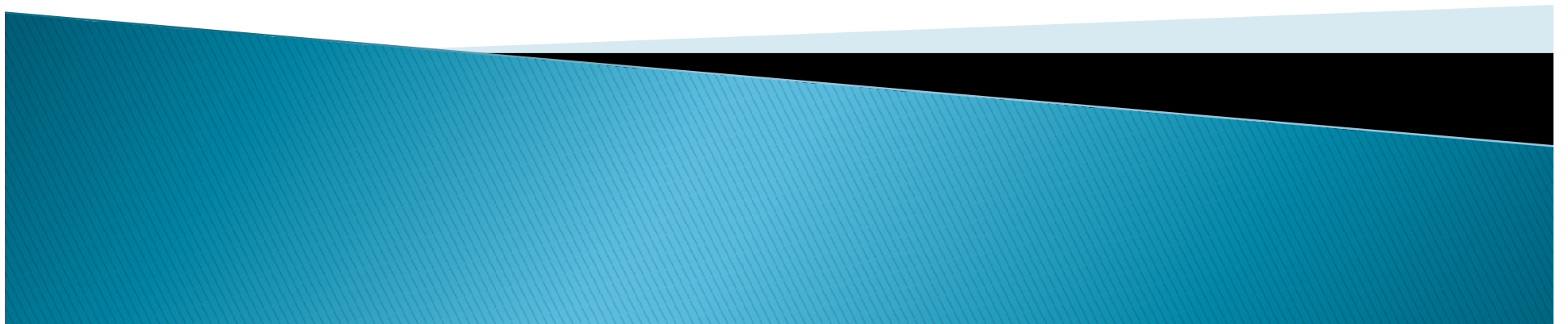


*"the face that launched
a thousand ships"*

HELEN – wife to Menelaus,
King of Sparta

(a half-
mortal daughter of Zeus)

Main Characters of the Iliad



Main Characters: Greeks

- ▶ Achilles: He is the main character and the greatest warrior in the world. He leads the Myrmidons against the Trojans.
- ▶ Possesses superhuman strength
- ▶ Has a close relationship with the gods
- ▶ Cannot control his pride or the rage that surges up when that pride is injured (even prays against his comrades when he is upset).



From the movie "Troy"



From the movie "Helen of Troy"

Achilles

- ▶ It is said that Thetis had tried to save Achilles from his fate by dipping the baby Achilles in the River Styx, holding him by the heel. The waters made his whole body invulnerable, all but the heel (this story is the origin of the name “Achilles tendon” given to the tendon at the back of the ankle, which athletes are prone to injure.)



Thetis Immerses Son Achilles in Water of River Styx by Antoine Borel (1743–1810)

Main Characters: Greeks

- ▶ Agamemnon: He is the king of Mycenae and the commander-in-chief of the Achaean army. He and Achilles fight on the same side, but they do not get along.



From the movie "Troy"



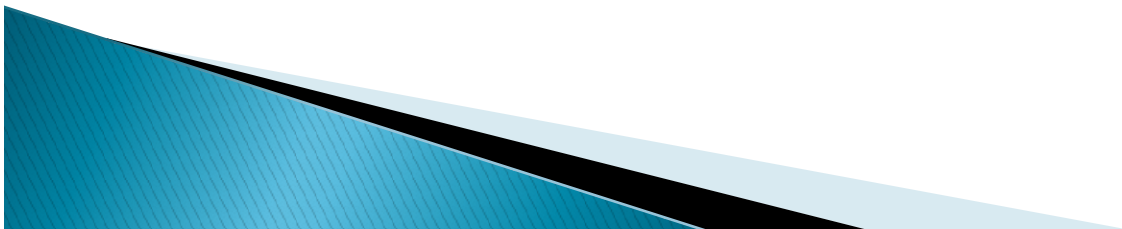
From the movie "Helen of Troy"

Agamemnon and Clytaemnestra

- ▶ Agamemnon married Clytaemnestra. She is the twin sister of Helen [soon to be called Helen of Troy]. Their mother was the beautiful Leda, queen of Sparta, one of the many mortal women that Zeus found desirable.
- ▶ She would kill Agamemnon as revenge for killing their daughter, Iphigenia.



From the movie "Helen of Troy"



- ▶ While Leda was walking by the river Eurotas, Zeus transformed himself into a beautiful swan and raped Leda in that form.
- ▶ She gave birth to four children: Helen, Clytaemnestra, Castor and Pollux. Some say that Helen and the two boys were hatched from a single egg, as children of Zeus; others say that Helen and Pollux were children of Zeus, and Clytaemnestra and Caster were children of King Tyndareus of Sparta. Clytaemnestra, all agree, was entirely of mortal birth.



Main Characters: Greeks

- ▶ Menelaus – He is King of Sparta. The Greeks go to war with Troy after a Trojan named Paris takes his wife Helen who is considered to be the most beautiful woman in the world.



From the movie “Troy”



From the movie “Helen of Troy”

Main Characters: Greeks

- ▶ Helen – The most beautiful woman in the world, Helen is married to King Menelaus. She is taken by the Trojans and is the cause for the Trojan War.



From the movie "Troy"



From the movie "Helen of Troy"

Helen of Troy

- ▶ Menelaus asked King Tyndareus for Helen's hand in marriage.
- ▶ When she was a child, she was already abducted and forcibly married by Theseus, king of Athens.
- ▶ When she was of age to be properly married, she was so beautiful that her many suitors seemed likely to start a war over her.



Helen of Troy by Dante Gabriel Rossetti (1828–1882)

Main Characters: Greeks

- ▶ Odysseus – A Greek hero noted for his intelligence. He is also king of Ithaca.
- ▶ When Agamemnon and Menelaus went to Ithaca to summon him to war, he pretended to be mad because he wanted to stay home.



From the movie "Troy"



From the movie "Helen of Troy"

Main Characters: Trojans

- ▶ Paris – Paris was the Trojan who took Helen from King Menelaus.
- ▶ Son of King Priam and Queen Hecabe.
- ▶ It was foretold that he would destroy the kingdom of the Trojans.



From the movie "Troy"



From the movie "Helen of Troy"

Main Characters: Trojans

- ▶ Hector – The greatest of all the Trojan warriors
- ▶ Brother of Paris
- ▶ Andromache is his wife
- ▶ He was eventually killed in battle by Achilles



From the movie "Troy"



From the movie "Helen of Troy"

Main Characters: Trojans

- ▶ Priam – He is the King of Troy during the Iliad.
- ▶ He had the baby Paris, his son, be exposed on the mountainside to die to stop the prophecy that his son would destroy Troy.



From the movie "Troy"



From the movie "Helen of Troy"

Sources:

- ▶ http://www.ducksters.com/history/ancient_greece/iliad.php
- ▶ Mythology: Myths, Legends, & Fantasies. 2003. NW, Australia: Global Book Publishing.
- ▶ Troy (2004) (Movie)
- ▶ Helen of Troy (2003) (Movie)

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