

BOOK 2 – BEFORE BATTLE

Identify Places and Characters

1. Dawn _____
2. Icarian Sea _____
3. Eurybates _____
4. Thersites _____
5. Aulis _____
6. Scamander _____
7. Iris _____
8. Lycia _____

Comprehension Questions

1. What did Zeus inform Agamemnon in the “Lying Dream”? Why did Zeus send this dream to Agamemnon? _____

2. Whose form did the dream take? Why? _____
3. What unusual plan did Agamemnon devise to test the Greeks? _____

4. _____ prevented the Greeks from leaving by sending _____.
5. What was Thersites’ criticism of Agamemnon? How did Odysseus respond? _____

6. How did Calchas convince the Greeks that they would win the war in the tenth year?

7. While the Greeks prepared for battle, Agamemnon sacrificed a bull. Name the six people he invited. Who else showed up? _____

8. The “Catalogue of Ships” is an oft used literary technique in ancient oral and written traditions. All of Greece is mentioned in this section, and many of the warriors had hero cults in their home cities during the classical age. Which king brought the most men? 2nd most? 3rd? Who brought the fewest? _____

9. How many men did not fight because of the quarrel between Agamemnon and Achilles (estimate 120 men per ship)? _____
10. Which Greek drove the best horses? _____
11. Next to Achilles, who was the greatest footsoldier of the Greeks? _____

Quotations

- *Odysseus has done many a good thing ere now in fight and council, but he never did the Argives a better turn than when he stopped this fellow’s mouth from prating further. He will give the kings no more of his insolence.*
– the Greeks about Thersites
- *Achilles was now holding aloof at his ships by reason of his quarrel with Agamemnon, and his people passed their time upon the seashore, throwing discs or aiming with spears at a mark, and in archery. Their horses stood each by his own chariot, champing lotus and wild celery. The chariots were housed under cover, but their owners, for lack of leadership, wandered hither and thither about the host and went not forth to fight.*

Discussion Questions

1. Is a god obligated to answer a request accompanied by sacrifices? What does this tell you about the Greek perception of divinity? After sacrificing an animal, what do the Greeks do with the meat?
2. Differentiate between the two Ajaxes.