**Achilles’ Epic Rant**

*The Iliad*, Book 9

**The Players**

Describe each character in the box provided (2 pts. per box)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Achilles** | **Odysseus** | **Phoenix** | **Ajax** |

**The Context**

Agamemnon realizes that in order to defeat the Trojans he needs Achilles to fight for the Achaeans. He sends Odysseus, Phoenix, and Ajax to try to persuade him to join in the battle.

***Why does Agamemnon select these three individuals to talk to Achilles?*** (1 pt.)

In the table below, outline the arguments that each individual makes in an effort to convince Achilles to fight. Then, outline the counterargument that Achilles responds with. (5 pts. per box)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Argument** | **Counterargument** |
| **Odysseus** (Book 9, lines 170-208)  1.  2.  3.  4. | **Achilles** (Book 9, lines 210-293)  1.  2.  3.  4. |
| **Phoenix** (Book 9, lines 364-423)  1.  2.  3.  4. | **Achilles** (Book 9, lines 425-441)  1.  2.  3.  4. |
| **AJAX** (Book 9, lines 446-472)  1.  2.  3.  4. | **Achilles** (Book 9, lines 474-488)  1.  2.  3.  4. |

***What is Achilles’ final decision?*** *(Book 9, lines 499-505)* (1 pt.)

**The War RAGES on**

Reciprocal Teaching Activity: *The Iliad*, Books 12-13

In your solid color group, read and discuss your assigned passage following the Reciprocal Teaching guidelines. Then complete the questions that go with your text.

In your rainbow color group, go in sequential text order. When it is your turn to present, you will teach your group members what was covered in your solid color group’s assigned passage. Follow the Reciprocal Teaching guidelines; when you are presenting, you will give the summary and then answer questions and provide clarifications to your group members.

**RED GROUP: Book 12, Lines 1 – 50**

1. What are the Trojans trying to do?

2. List two similes that describe Hector.

3. If Zeus is supporting the Trojans, why did he send Hector an ominous omen?

🡪 Why does Hector ignore the omen?

4. What is the point of Sarpedon’s speech?

🡪 What effect does Sarpedon’s speech have?

5. What did the Trojans accomplish?

🡪 Why is it important?

**GREEN GROUP: Book 12, Lines 80 - End**

6. What two things does Hector command his men to do?

7. What does Hector do that demonstrates his strength?

🡪 Why does Homer include vignette?

8. What do the Trojans accomplish in this passage?

9. Predict what will happen to the Achaeans as a result of the Trojan success described in this passage.

**YELLOW GROUP: Book 13, Lines 1 - 29**

10. Summarize the extended metaphor about Hector in lines 16 – 25.

11. Why do you think the Achaeans fought in such a tightly packed formation?

12. Think of two advantages and two disadvantages to fighting in a tightly packed formation like the Achaeans.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Advantages** | **Disadvantages** |
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |

13. Explain whether or not the Achaean battle strategy is effective.

**BLUE GROUP: Book 13, Lines 83 - End**

14. What happened the first time Ajax and Hector met in battle (see italic write-up at the beginning of Book 7).

15. Why does Ajax challenge Hector?

16. What does Ajax predict will happen in the battle?

17. How does Hector respond to Ajax’s taunts?

18. Who is the better trash talker, Ajax or Hector?

🡪 Why?