



YEAR 8 UNIT 1
GREEK MYTHS AND LEGENDS
HOMER – THE ILIAD
MASTERY BOOKLET

NAME:

We want your knowledge to be secure, so you will use this booklet at home to reinforce the learning we do in class.

The Trojans	
Paris	Prince of Troy, abducted/sexually abused Helen which was the catalyst for the Trojan War.
Hector	Greatest Trojan warrior, brother of Paris. Killed by Achilles.
Priam	Noble king of Troy, Paris and Hector's father.
Hecuba	Queen of Troy
The Greeks (Achaean)	
Helen	Princess of Sparta. Wife of Menelaus, King of Sparta. The face that launched a thousand ships.
Menelaus	King of Sparta, husband of Helen
Achilles	Greatest Greek warrior. Son of mortal Peleus and sea nymph Thetis who tried to make him immortal by dipping him in the river Styx.
Patroclus	Achilles' comrade. He pretends to be Achilles and fights in his armour. Killed by Hector
Agamemnon	King of Mycenae, brother of Menelaus. Leader of the Greek army in ten Trojan War.
Iphigenia	Agamemnon's daughter who was sacrificed to the gods
The Gods	
Zeus	King of Olympian gods. Supports the Trojans.
Helios	God of the sun. Supports the Trojans
Athena	Goddess of wisdom and war, associated with tactical warfare and strategic thinking. Supports the Greeks
Aphrodite	Goddess of love. Paris is one of her favourites. Responsible for engineering the abduction of Helen
Thetis	Immortal sea nymph, mother of Achilles. Dipped Achilles in the river Styx to try to make him immortal, but his heel where she held him was vulnerable.
Themes of The Iliad	
Warfare and the glory of war	With a focus on proving heroism but destroying lives.
Fate and free will	Mortals seek the help of the gods to alter their fate but not even immortals are immune to fate.
Honour and Glory	For a man in Ancient Greece, performing in battle was a source of honour and worthiness. The glory they earned made them legendary.
Retribution	Punishment inflicted on someone as vengeance for a wrong or criminal act.
Love	Parental, romantic and fraternal love are all featured in the poem. Love propels the plot.
Mortality and death	The poem confronts the fact that all men are doomed to die
The hero's quest	A long or arduous journey or mission
Divine intervention	The gods helped the mortal warriors by determining or changing fate. (Deus ex machina)
Valour	Great courage in the face of danger – bravery, courage.
Xenia	Hospitality and welcome shown to travellers or guests
Epic poetry	
Epic poem	A long, narrative poem that features a hero who goes on a journey, often takes part in a battle and encounters mythical creatures.
Oral tradition	Stories and poems would be told or sung from memory. They would be passed from generation to generation.
Epic hero	A hero of national importance – strong, heroic and brave. Usually victorious.
Epic setting	The story usually unfolds in both realistic and mythical settings where the hero will face danger and challenges.
Epithets	An adjective/descriptive phrase expressing a quality of the person or thing mentioned. 'Swift-footed Achilles'
The invoking of the Muses	Calling for inspiration from the daughters of Zeus at the start of the epic poem. In the Iliad the muse is Calliope.

	Cover, write, check		Definition
Scholars			
Reminiscent			
Reciprocal			
Deity			
Antiquity			
Achilles			
Nymph			
Sacrifice			
Calliope			
Prophecy			
Conjecture			
In media res			
Diverse			
Xenia			
Transgression			
Benevolent			
Scorn			
Protracted			
Eloquence			
Ruse			

Knowledge check 1

What is an epic poem?

What does omniscient mean?

Why don't we know very much about Homer?

What are the 6 elements of an epic poem?

Why was it important to show Xenia, even to the poorest stranger?

Who was the Trojan's greatest warrior?

Who was Helen's husband?

By what epithet is Odysseus known?

What does Agamemnon do to try to get good weather to sail to Troy?

What were Achilles soldiers called?

What is a minstrel?

What are the 6 elements of epic poetry?

What is the Greek term for hospitality?

Who were Achilles's parents?

What was the prophecy about Paris when he was born?

In what year of the Trojan War does the Iliad begin?

What was Odysseus's cunning plan to eventually win the Trojan War?

Who were Chryseis and Briseis?

Who was the father of Chryseis and what type of person was he?

What happened to the Greek forces as a result of Agamemnon's refusal to return Chryseis to her father?

How did Agamemnon anger Achilles?

Who was Patroclus?

How and why did Patroclus die?

What does Achilles do in response to the death of Patroclus?

Test your knowledge – can you define the key names, themes and methods?

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Epic setting	
Epithets	
The invoking of the Muses	

Knowledge check 2

What are the themes of the Iliad?

What is *kleos*?

Many Greek heroes know that their fate is to die in battle. How do Greek heroes respond to this knowledge?

What is an invocation, and what are its purposes?

Who is Calliope?

What is hubris?

How is Paris described in Book 3?

Which goddess does Paris credit for his physical appearance?

When Paris saw Menelaus, “he cringed from death as one who trips on a snake in a hilltop hollow”. What does this simile imply?

How did Hector react when Paris withdrew his first challenge to the Greeks?

What is Paris’s response to Hector’s reaction?

How did Paris escape the fight with Menelaus?

Test your knowledge – can you identify the key names, themes and methods?

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	Mortals seek the help of the gods to alter their fate but not even immortals are immune to fate.
	For a man in Ancient Greece, performing in battle was a source of honour and worthiness. The glory they earned made them legendary.
	Punishment inflicted on someone as vengeance for a wrong or criminal act.
	Parental, romantic and fraternal love are all featured in the poem. Love propels the plot.
	The poem confronts the fact that all men are doomed to die
	A long or arduous journey or mission
	The gods helped the mortal warriors by determining or changing fate. (Deus ex machina)
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	An adjective/descriptive phrase expressing a quality of the person or thing mentioned. 'Swift-footed Achilles'
	Calling for inspiration from the daughters of Zeus at the start of the epic poem. In the Iliad the muse is Calliope.