

Answer the following questions.

1. Consider the themes of masculinity and gender roles in "The Iliad." How do the male characters in the epic define themselves in relation to traditional ideals of manhood?

- Ancient Greek society is patriarchal in nature where men in Iliad are higher up in the social ladder than women. They are often portrayed as leaders, powerful warriors and brave heroes which makes them; Achilles and Hector, the main characters of the story. On the other hand, women are only treated as possessions and prizes for men's victory in battle. Thus, stating a social separation on gender roles between men and women in which men are expected to bring honour to their families whereas women are domestically settled on childcare and housekeeping.

2. How does the character of Hector embody the concept of heroism in "The Iliad"? Compare and contrast him with Achilles in terms of their heroic qualities.

- Hector is seen as a more balanced and morally upright hero who has a strong sense of duty as a father and a leader because he deeply cares for his family and therefore shows a quality of a devoted husband to his wife Andromache and a caring father to their kid Astyanax. He is also a responsible and honourable hero in the war between trojans and Greeks because even though he knew his fate and in the overwhelming odds, he is still committed to continue defending his homeland and his people until his death.
- Unlike Hector, Achilles is more driven by his pride and personal emotions which was 'rage' which was the first word of the poem. When Briseis was taken from him by Agamemnon in exchange for returning Chryseis, this shows that his actions are influenced by his emotions and that Achilles is one of the pillars who immortalizes the Masculinity aspect of Patriarchy. Achilles and Hector are both portrayed as strong heroes but Achilles is a demigod because he is the son of Thetis, a sea Goddess while Hector is a mortal. Moreover, Achilles' purpose for joining the battle is different to Hector, Because he joined the battle to avenge his friend while Hector had something to protect.

3. How has "The Iliad" influenced subsequent literature and cultural representations of the Trojan War and ancient Greece? Provide examples of its lasting impact.

- The poem Iliad played a significant role not only through the development of Greek Civilization from the past but also affected or paved the way towards modern way of thinking; perceptibly about leadership attributes, the way how it changed the way people worship gods, literary development, etc.
- The poem influenced literature and education globally. It served as a standard of teaching to perceive ancient Greece, Heroism, and Epic storytelling. The utilization of the theme and characters of the poem "The Iliad" is recognized throughout the theatrical genre known as Greek Tragedy. For example, the tragic stories of characters Achilles and Hector inspired several playwrights such as Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides.
- Countless films and Television Series have adapted a story or taken inspiration from the poem to develop twists or other versions of the poem "The Iliad." Specifically about the story of the Trojan War. An example that can be used is the 2004 film "Troy" and the Television series "Troy: Fall of a City" utilized the theme of the said poem. Another example where contemporary authors created their own version of the story is "The Song of Achilles," which was composed or written by author Madeline Miller and "Ransom," composed or written by David Malouf.

4. Who's the character in the epic poem you can relate the most? Explain.

- The Character I relate the most is Patroclus. Like him, I'm also a loyal companion as I would fight alongside my friend in war and even if he changes his mind, I would respect my friend's decision if he refuses to go to war, however I'm not sure if I would risk my life because I think it was foolish to pretend to be someone while risking your life and it's not worth it because along the way, he killed Zeus' favourite son.
- I also relate a little to Achilles' emotional outburst when his wife was taken from him. I think I would also react the same as Achilles if my loved one was taken away from me, especially by a comrade but not adhering to patriarchy. Lastly, I may not be as strong as Hector but I would relate to Hector's devotion to his family and compassion for his people.

5. What lessons you learned from the epic poem, "Iliad"? Explain.

- It is evident that war itself gives out the courage in every warrior to fight for their homeland but war is very tragic because firstly, this serves as a lesson how one can easily start and get involved in the war. In The Iliad, what ignited the Trojan war was because Paris, from the city of Troy, took a married woman, Helen, from Menelaus. Menelaus came from the city where they prioritize their pride over being devoted to their wives and families. The Greeks are known for the patriarchal society and prideful attitude as they don't want their possessions to be taken. Thus, resulting in a 20-year war between the Trojans and Greeks. The Greek may have won the war but both have also lost a lot of men as all of their families suffered the loss of their loved one and especially a loyal friend like patroclus. And in the first place, this war wouldn't have started in the first place if Menelaus treats her right and not just a possession.