The story of the Trojan War has played a crucial role in shaping the way the history of ancient Greece has been formed, and is an infamous example of ancient warfare. The writings of *Homer* in ‘The Iliad’ and ‘The Odyssey’ provide the main source of information regarding the Trojan War; though depictions in modern media including the 2004 film ‘Troy’ show another perspective of this myth. These exaggerated accounts of the story of the fall of Troy – both in film and texts – make it difficult to see a clear story of the Trojan War. Due to these reasons, it is hard to find any proof of the war of Troy as anything more than speculation and myth, excepting the discovery of a site that is believed to be the place of Troy in a village in modern day Turkey by Heinrich Schliemann in 1862. The archeological evidence has since been widely accepted as the ancient city of Troy, however, there is still large amounts of speculation regarding the content of the war, as there is little evidence suggesting the war occurred. This essay will compare and contrast the myth of the Trojan War as depicted in Homer’s text ‘The Iliad’ and the 2004 film ‘Troy’.

There are many similarities between the characters and events of the Trojan War shown in the two texts Homer’s ‘Iliad’ and the film ‘Troy’. There are many overlapping identifications of key Greek and Trojan heroes, victims, and warriors. An example of this is King Agememnon, who Homer highlights as fundamentally concerned with himself – using his cunning to manipulate people and situations for his own benefit (Book 2). These character traits are emphasised in the same way in the film Troy, with Agememnon utilising his brothers intentions (Menelaus) as a justification to take over Greece. Similarly, many events are described in the almost the same way in both texts. Both the film and book describe the events of Helen’s kidnapping, the battles of the Trojan War, and the significance of the Trojan Horse. The two texts share many similarities – particularly in characters and events.

There are several differences in depictions of key ideas in Homer’s ‘Iliad’ and the film ‘Troy’.