

Book 1

- Achaians raid Troy regularly
- On one raid they capture two maidens
 - Chryseis
 - Briseis
- The girls are given to
 - Agamemnon
 - Achilles
- Chryses demands his daughter back, but Agamemnon refuses
- Chryses gets Apollo to curse the Achaians
- On day 10, Achilles intervenes
- Achilles calls an assembly (Agamemnon's job) and recommends a soothesayer
- Kalchas volunteers on condition of protection
- Kalchas blames Agamemnon, who gets mad about being publically held responsible
- He insists that if he can't have Chryseis, he should get Briseis
- Achilles refuses to give up Briseis and is offended that it was brought up
- He withdraws with his troops
- Agamemnon gives up Chryseis and sends men to find Briseis
- Achilles asks his mom, Thetis, sea god, to get Zeus to humiliate Agamemnon in the battlefield
- Thetis convinces Zeus, but he's worried Hera will be mad
- It turns out Hera is too afraid of Zeus to interfere

Book 9

- The Achaians are in a low spot militarily
- Agamemnon remembers Achilles, and sends for him with gifts and Briseis
- Achilles welcomes Ajax and Odysseus, but refuses the deal, saying nothing could fix Agamemnon's insult
- Agamemnon is disappointed, but Diomedes says it was a mistake to ask in the first place, since Achilles is so stubborn
- The Achaians prepare for battle

Book 11

- Achilles is monitoring the failure of the Achaians, and curses his "inability" to provide help
- Achilles sends Patroklos for more news
- Nestor tells Patroklos to convince Achilles to come back
- If the persuasion fails, Nestor says that Patroklos should don Achilles's armor, and pretend to be Achilles for the sake of morale
- Patroklos agrees

Book 16

- Patroklos begs Achilles to let him wear his armor
- Achilles caves when he sees the smoke coming from the ships, signalling Achaian failure
- Achilles warns not to go near the ships, so that the Trojans don't kill him
- Patroklos does some impressive combat, until he is struck by Apollo, then impaled by Trojans
- Hektor then kills him
- Patroklos blames the gods

Book 17

- A Trojan steals Achilles's armor
- A battle forms over Patroklos's body, as to who can keep it
- Eventually, the Achaians keep the body and bring it back to camp

Book 18

- Achilles finds out about Patroklos's death, and calls for his mother
- Thetis warns Achilles that if he avenges Patroklos, he could die
- Achilles ignores her and scares away all the Trojans
- Achilles vows to kill Hektor and 12 other Trojans
- Poultdamas suggests that the Trojans fortify their position out of fear of Achilles
- Hektor decides they will stay in the field
- Thetis gets Hephaistos to make Achilles new armor
- Thetis warns Achilles he will die if he continues to avenge Patroklos
- Achilles doesn't care

Book 19

- Achilles assembles the army and makes peace with Agamemnon, accepting his gifts
- Achilles becomes essentially god-like, not eating until he gets revenge
- Achilles argues with his horses about how they let Patroklos die
- One of the horses repeats Achilles' death prophesy

Book 20

- The gods assemble and pick sides
- Achilles kills a lot of Trojans

Book 21

- Achilles chases the Trojans back to their city

Book 22

- Achilles and Hektor duel; Achilles wins
- Hektor begs for a proper funeral; Achilles and the Achaians strip him naked and strap him to a wild horse
- Troy is devastated

Book 23

- Patroklos has a funeral
- Achilles plans a games in his honor

Book 24

- This whole time, Achilles has been desecrating Hektor's corpse daily, strapping it to a chariot and dragging it around Patroklos's grave
- The gods keep it from rotting
- Zeus has had enough desecration, and has Thetis talk some sense into Achilles
- Hermes escorts Priam to the Achaian camp to retrieve the body
- Priam pleads with Achilles, which is relatable to him, so he capitulates
- Achilles also grants a 12-day truce, which the Trojans use to mourn

Character Notes

Achilles tends to flip on a dime. One moment he's responsibly looking after his camp, the next he's sulking away from the front. One moment he's adamantly antimilitarist, the next he's eager to fight to the point of self-neglect. He's sort of childish in that manner, as he blindly follows where his emotions take him. I can imagine in a modern courtroom, he'd be very easy for lawyers to goad and play, as his pride and passion consistently get the best of him.

Another trend is that Achilles highly values societal norms. He wants to see the camp running orderly, the wealth distributed customarily, and he wants to see Agamemnon act like a leader is supposed to. He strikes me as very "holier-than-thou". I think deep down what he wants to see is a result that fits into his idea of how society should run, regardless of the material outcome. That said, he is massively offended by Agamemnon, so I doubt he will be satisfied by any outcome.

Achilles is sort of a loose cannon that has to be carefully managed by the other characters. Both Patroklos and his mother, Thetis, seem to be calming influences for Achilles, and would be most likely to be able to broker a deal from his end. His ego is incredibly fragile currently, however, so anyone who is acting in a position of authority, especially if it's one beyond their paygrade, is likely to really antagonize him.