

Iliad Book I (themes: challenge of coming to terms with death,
necessity for exchange/ compromise to avert strife/ chaos)

1. 3 epic conventions employed in first lines:

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____

2. Problem confronting the Greeks as the story begins? National importance? (10) _____

3. What's the universal response to Chryses' status, behavior, and request? (25) _____

4. Who calls the people to assembly? (62) _____
Who *should* have taken the initiative? _____

5. Dispute between Achilles and Agamemnon: conflict between what two concepts?
_____ vs. _____

6. Kalchas' explicit request for protection:
from whom? _____ against whom? (86) _____

7. Achilles' promise to Kalchas? (99) _____

8. How does Homer indicate that there is a longstanding personal quarrel between
Agamemnon and Kalchas? (123) _____

9. Why does Agamemnon stress how valuable Chryseis is to him? (131) _____

10. "Most violent man alive": superlative formulaic compliment or insult? (172) _____

11. Agamemnon: "I myself desire that my people be safe, not perish." (134) Is he sincere? _____

12. Achilles primary motive for engaging in the war? (173) _____

13. 3 examples of Achilles as a hero: a) (154) _____
b) (190) _____
c) (287) _____

14. **[We will answer this together]**: Achilles' existential crisis: Once he is dishonored,
Achilles comes face to face with the inevitable _____ between his being "best of
the Achaians," the best _____ and almost a _____, but not the "most
powerful," or "most lordly," and not the _____ in chief.

15. Why does Achilles withdraw from battle? (217) _____

18. Why is honor so important to Achilles? _____

19. Achilles has the right to leave. Is it appropriate for him to return home? _____

20. With what accusations does Agamemnon taunt Achilles?
a) _____
b) _____
c) _____
21. Agamemnon's remarks to Achilles: "I care nothing . . . your anger." (213)
Good commander? _____
22. Under what circumstances might Achilles have willingly surrendered his prize to Agamemnon? _____
23. Agamemnon's primary motive for claiming Briseis? _____
24. Why is Achilles dishonored when Agamemnon takes Briseis? _____
25. Why does Achilles decide not to strike Agamemnon? a) (246) _____
b) (248) _____
26. "Hera, goddess of the white arms": example of which epic convention? _____
27. Might Achilles have thought of Athene's advice by himself? _____
Is there a connection between human motivation and divine causality? _____
Do the gods control what happens and what doesn't happen? _____
28. How does Achilles see the relationship between humans and gods? _____

29. Paraphrase Achilles' insults. What do his charges reveal to us? (264) _____

30. Why does Homer have Achilles make an oath before returning to Olympos? _____

- Might his great oath be prophetic? _____
31. Why does Achilles predict the Achaians will die at Hektor's hands? _____

- Why does he want them to fail? _____
32. How is Achilles portrayed at the end of Book I? (241) _____
33. 3 examples of divine intervention in this book? a) _____
b) _____
c) _____
34. One of the main themes of Book I of the Iliad? Re: honor? gods? kings? war?
