

Everything You Need to Know About The Iliad

Charles River Editors



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*Explains the Iliad's major themes, characters, and plot.

*Includes historic artwork depicting important characters and events in the Iliad.

*Discusses the historical basis of Homer, the Trojan War, and Ancient Greek culture.

"Like leaves on trees the race of man is found, — Now green in youth, now withering on the ground; Another race the following spring supplies: They fall successive, and successive rise." – The Iliad Perhaps the most famous epic poem ever written, The Iliad has been read for nearly 3,000 years, making it also one of the oldest written works in the Western world. Although the story covers only a few weeks in the final year of the Trojan War, the poem has made characters like Paris, Helen, Achilles, Hector, and Ajax instantly recognizable. The Iliad and the Odyssey influenced Virgil, whose Aeneid is clearly modeled after them, and every other great poet since. The epic poems also literally put Troy on the map, motivating Heinrich Schliemann to search for and ultimately find the city of Troy in the 19th century. Believed to be penned around the 7 or 8th century B.C, the Iliad and the Odyssey served as both entertainment and a moral guidebook of sorts for ancient Greeks, as well as the foundation for Western literature. Although there is some scholarly debate regarding the epic's authorship, It is generally attributed to a poet named Homer. Given that he lived nearly 2800 years ago, not much is actually known about Homer. His birthplace is debated, but due to the dialect of Greek in which the works attributed to him were written, it is generally believed that he lived in Iona. The only other aspect of Homer's life that is generally agreed upon is that he was a blind poet, possibly also a bard. That naturally raises the question of how he wrote his epic poetry, but scholars assume he probably dictated them to a scribe, as the format suggests they were comprised from various shorter forms of oral poetry. In addition to the Iliad and Odyssey, Homer also wrote the popular "Homeric Hymns", which depict the various myths regarding the origins of the Gods. Everything You Need to Know About The Iliad is the perfect resource for understanding Homer's famous epic, including an introduction that looks at the historical basis of the Trojan War, and a comprehensive explanation of the epic's characters, plot, themes, and its influential and enduring legacy. With The Iliad as relevant as ever today, get caught up quickly with this resourceful guide.

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