

LESSON 7 - THE MAKINGS OF A HERO

Tales from the Trojan War are interesting because they feature such a variety of characters that can challenge our understanding of certain character archetypes. For example, when you think of a typical god, would you imagine them to be as selfish, childish, and vindictive as some of them are in “The Wrath of Achilles”?

Heroes are the same; there are lots of different versions in the story you read last week. Many have the characteristics similar to what you described when you watched your movie in Lesson 5, but did you know that back in the time of ancient Greece, among other things, being a hero meant that:

1. At least one parent had to be a god.
and
2. They had to have a craving for glory and fame that determined many of their actions.

You can begin to see that some of this “old school” criteria wouldn’t be very helpful in determining who is and who isn’t a hero by today’s standards. By the criteria above, the only hero in the Avengers would be Thor, and even then, he was only selfish for glory and fame in his first stand-alone movie.

Assignment:

In a multi-paragraph response, explain to me how Hector and Achilles both meet the standards for being a hero. You can use any criteria for being a hero you want, ancient, or modern.

You will need to present THREE traits for each character, with appropriate evidence from “The Wrath of Achilles” as support.

YOU MAY NOT USE THE SAME TRAIT TWICE. NOR MAY YOU USE TRAITS WITH SIMILAR MEANINGS.

For example, you cannot say that Hector is “brave” and “fearless”, or that Hector is “brave” and Achilles is “courageous”. Part of the trick to this assignment is finding SIX separate traits for a hero present in the story I gave you.

The bare minimum I am hoping for here is two paragraphs: one on Hector, and one on Achilles. Everything counts for this piece of writing, so content (ideas/ evidence), organization (topic sentence, concluding sentence, transitions), mechanics (spelling, punctuation, capitalization), and style (vocabulary) are all important.

I am sending a couple of documents to help you along. One is the notes on paragraphs, the other is the template for an expository paragraph (remember, I want at least 2 for this assignment).

Use the tables below to research and brainstorm traits for Hector and Achilles based on the story from last week, “The Wrath of Achilles”.

Your finished, polished, bestest paragraphs can be completed after the brainstorming charts on this document.

HECTOR

| Trait | Proof from the Story |
|-------|----------------------|
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ACHILLES

| Trait | Proof from the Story |
|-------|----------------------|
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