



## Study Questions

### Book 16 Short answer questions

**Question 1:** Why does the poet repeatedly refer to Patroclus in the second person in this book?

**Question 2:** What rhetorical effect is found in lines 16.33-35? What is its impact?

**Question 3:** Patroclus' argument to Achilles (16.36-45) is repeated verbatim from what Nestor had said to him earlier in the poem (11.794-803). Why is this the case?

**Question 4:** What is the meaning of the word ἀπὸ in line 655?

**Question 5:** 16.661-2 marks one of the very few occasions in the poem where warriors die without the reader being told their names. How does this impact our understanding of the fighting that is going on round Sarpedon's body?

**Question 6:** Why do you think Patroclus is killed by a combination of Apollo, Euphorbus and Hector, as opposed to simply Hector by himself?

### Book 16 – Discussion questions

**Question 1:** How sympathetic a character is Patroclus?

**Question 2:** Do you think Patroclus' death is unfair?

**Question 3:** How does the poet maintain our interest in a book that is almost entirely filled with fighting?

**Question 4:** What, if anything, is added by the extended similes in this book?



**Question 5:** Would it make a difference if we knew for certain that the *Iliad* was NOT an orally-derived poem?

### **Book 24 – Short answer questions**

**Question 1:** Consider the simile at 24.480-3. Outline the ways in which the situation in the world of the simile is the exact opposite to the situation that is actually happening.

**Question 2:** Outline the ways in which the poet evokes a sense of death during Priam and Idaeus' crossing of the battlefield at 24.349ff.

**Question 3:** Why does Priam begin (and end) his speech to Achilles by asking him to 'remember [his] father'?

**Question 4:** What is the purpose of Achilles' allegory of the jars of Zeus (24.527ff.)?

**Question 5:** At 24.542, Achilles tells Priam that he has created unnecessary 'cares' for Priam. At the same time, the body of Hector has been left 'without care' (24.554). Are 'cares' good or bad things in the *Iliad*?

**Question 6:** What rhetorical device can be found in lines 24.353-4? What is its effect?

### **Book 24 – Discussion questions**

**Question 1:** Is the poet more sympathetic to the Trojans than the Greeks?

**Question 2:** What does Book 24 contribute to the poem as a whole? Why doesn't the poem end with the death of Hector in Book 22?

**Question 3:** What do the gods contribute to Book 24? What would be different if they weren't there?



**Question 4:** To what extent is Achilles a typical Homeric hero?

**Question 5:** To what extent have either Achilles or Priam changed over the course of the poem? Do any characters in the Iliad change?

**Question 6:** How is old age presented in the Iliad?