



Further Reading

(The Rest of) the *Iliad*

The two most recent translations of the *Iliad* into English are those of **Peter Green** (2015) and **Caroline Alexander** (2016). Both are verse translations, and are on the whole very readable. Green's is on the whole more stylish, while Alexander's is more doggedly faithful to the original Greek.

Two of the most highly-regarded translations of the poem are those of **Richmond Lattimore** (1951) and **Richard Fagles** (1990). Both authors are excellent poets, though the degree of poetic license taken with the original Greek may be helpful to those translating the poem.

For students who prefer a prose translation of the poem, that of **Martin Hammond** (1988) is excellent – both highly readable and accurate.

Other Primary Sources

The whole of the *Odyssey* is worth reading, not only to get a better understanding of Homeric style, but also for the reappearance (and reappraisal) of several characters from the *Iliad*. The central figure here is Odysseus, of course, though we also find Nestor (Book 3), Menelaus and Helen (Book 4), and the several Greek heroes whom Odysseus meets in the Underworld (Book 11). One episode that might be of particular interest to students thinking about Achilles' speech in Book 9 of the *Iliad* is the conversation between Odysseus and the (now-deceased) Achilles at *Od.* 11.465ff.

Another early Greek hexameter poet was Hesiod, whose surviving works include *Works and Days* and *Theogony*. The Oxford Worlds Classics edition by M. L. West is an excellent translation of both poems. The opening of *Works and Days* includes a reflection of the nature of Strife (11ff.), the very same topic that Achilles reflects on in Book 18 of the *Iliad* (18.107ff.).

Many of the characters from the *Iliad* reappear in the tragic drama of fifth-century BC Athens. The *Complete Greek Tragedies* (edited by David Grene and Richmond Lattimore) provides a very good translation of all extant tragedies across nine volumes. Students may be interested in the following tragedies in particular:

Sophocles' *Ajax*

Ajax plans to massacre his fellow soldiers having been deprived of the arms of Achilles by Odysseus. The goddess Athena, protecting her favourite Odysseus, intervenes to ensure that



Ajax slaughters a flock of sheep instead. A play that reflects on different kinds of heroism, the figures of Ajax and Odysseus, and the nature of divine assistance.

Sophocles' *Philoctetes*

The Greeks must retrieve the bow of Hercules from Philoctetes, who has been abandoned on the island of Lemnos. Odysseus leads the delegation, accompanied by the son of Achilles, Neoptolemus. Odysseus at his most Machiavellian.

Euripides' *Trojan Women*

Follows the fate of the Trojan women after the city of Troy has been sacked by the Greeks.

Aristotle's *Poetics* is best known for its reflections on tragedy, though it has plenty to say about epic poetry too.

Secondary Sources

Short Introductions

- E. Barker and J. Christensen, *Homer: A Beginner's Guide* (London, 2013)
- B. Graziosi, *Homer* (Oxford, 2016)
- M. Silk, *Homer: The Iliad* (Cambridge, 1987)

Texts & Commentaries

- M. M. Willcock (ed.) *Homer, Iliad I-XII* (Bristol, 1984)
- M. M. Willcock (ed.) *Homer, Iliad XIII-XXIV* (Bristol, 1984)
- G. S. Kirk, *The Iliad: A Commentary. Volume I: Books 1-4* (Cambridge, 1985)
- G. S. Kirk, *The Iliad: A Commentary. Volume II: Books 5-8* (Cambridge, 1990)
- J. B. Hainsworth, *The Iliad: A Commentary. Volume III: Books 9-12* (Cambridge, 1993)
- R. Janko, *The Iliad: A Commentary. Volume IV: Books 13-16* (Cambridge, 1992)
- M. Edwards, *The Iliad: A Commentary. Volume V: Books 17-20* (Cambridge, 1991)
- N. Richardson, *The Iliad: A Commentary. Volume VI: Books 21-24* (Cambridge, 1993)
- J. Griffin, *Homer Iliad IX* (Oxford, 1995)
- P. Jones, *Homer's Iliad: A Commentary on Three Translations* (Bristol, 2003)

General Studies

- D. L. Cairns (ed.), *Oxford Readings in Homer's Iliad* (Oxford, 2001)
- R. Fowler (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Homer* (Cambridge, 2004)
- J. Griffin, *Homer on Life and Death* (Oxford, 1980)
- I. Morris and B. Powell (eds.), *A New Companion to Homer* (Leiden, 1997)
- O. Taplin, *Homeric Soundings* (Oxford, 1992)



Oral Poetry and Composition in Performance

- E. Bakker, *Pointing at the Past: From Formula to Performance in Homeric Poetics* (Cambridge, MA, 2005)
- B. Lord, *The Singer of Tales* (Cambridge, MA, 1960)
- M. Parry, *The Making of Homeric Verse: The Collected Papers of Milman Parry* (Oxford, 1971)

Type-Scenes

- W. Arend, *Die typischen Szenen bei Homer* (Berlin, 1933)
- M. Edwards, 'Convention and Individuality in *Iliad* 1', *Harvard Studies in Classical Philology* 84 (1980), pp. 1-28

Neoanalysis

- M. L. West, *The East Face of Helicon: West Asiatic Elements in Greek Poetry and Myth* (Oxford, 1997)

Story Patterns

- V. Propp, *Morphology of the Folktale* (Austin, 1968)
- M. N. Nagler, *Spontaneity and Tradition: A Study in the Oral Art of Homer* (Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1974)

Heroes and Heroism

- D. Cairns, *Aidōs: The Psychology and Ethics of Honour and Shame in Ancient Greek Literature* (Oxford, 1993)
- G. Nagy, *The Best of the Achaeans: Concepts of the Hero in Archaic Greek Poetry* (2nd edn. Baltimore, 1999)
- S. L. Schein, *The Mortal Hero: An Introduction to Homer's Iliad* (London, 1984)

E-Resources

MASSOLIT (massolit.io) produces short video lectures on a range of topics within Classics and Ancient History. Many of these will prove useful, especially the courses **Homer: Iliad** by Prof. Richard Jenkyns (Oxford), **Homer: Iliad** by Prof. Barbara Graziosi (Durham) and **The World of the Iliad and the Odyssey** by Dr Elton Barker (Open University). Access is available to subscribing institutions via JCS Online Resources. A 30-day free trial is also available.