

HOMERIC EPICS—CHARACTERS

ANCIENT GREECE—THE ILIAD AND ODYSSEY

TROJAN WAR TO RETURN OF ODYSSEUS

THE ILIAD - TROJANS

- Helen** Beautiful Spartan princess and wife of Menelaus who started the Trojan when she ran off with Paris.
- Paris** Prince of Troy, kidnapped Helen with the help of Aphrodite.
- Hector** Prince of Troy, Brave and Noble leader of Trojans. Killed by Achilles.
- Aeneas** Trojan hero and son of Aphrodite, who escaped Troy and eventually settled near Rome.
- Cassandra** Trojan princess who was given the gift of prophesy, but was never to be believed.
- Priam** King of Troy, who pleads with Achilles for the body of his son Hector.
- Hecuba** Queen of Troy, mother of Hector, Paris, and Cassandra.
- Andromache** Faithful wife of Hector who becomes a concubine of Achilles' son after the war.
- Pandarus** Trojan archer who unwittingly sabotages a truce by shooting Menelaus.

THE ILIAD - GREEKS

- Menelaus** Spartan king and husband of Helen, who raised a fleet of "1000 Ships" to rescue her from Troy.
- Agamemnon** Brother of Menelaus, and Greek leader in the Trojan War. Killed by his wife upon his return home.
- Achilles** Greatest warrior hero of the Greeks, renowned for his fighting skills. Central character of the *Iliad*.
- Patroclus** Dearest friend of Achilles who dons the armor of Achilles and is killed by Hector.
- Thetis** Immortal Mother of Achilles, who seeks to protect him from harm.
- Nestor** Veteran warrior who is too old to fight, but serves as a trusted advisor to the Greeks.
- Iphigenia** Daughter of Agamemnon who is sacrificed to the Gods while the Greek fleet is stranded at Aulis.
- Diomedes** Courageous and noble hero, who leads the Greeks in battle after Achilles quits the field.
- Ajax (Greater)** Strongest and Bravest of the Greek warriors, chosen to do single combat with Hector.
- Briseis** Greek princess who is the cause of a great row between Achilles and Agamemnon during the Trojan War.

THE ODYSSEY - HEROINES AND HEROES

- Odysseus** Greek hero known best for strategy and craft. Central character of the *Odyssey*.
- Penelope** Patient and faithful wife of Odysseus. Kept suitors at bay for twenty years as she awaited his return.
- Telemachus** Son of Odysseus who leaves Ithaca in search of his father.
- Laertes** Father of Odysseus, who sailed with Jason on the Argo and grieves for his lost son.
- Nausicaa** Phaeacian princess who rescues Odysseus when he drifts ashore her land.

THE ODYSSEY - MONSTERS AND IMMORTALS

- Lotus Eaters** Race of people who eat lotus plants that put them into an oblivious sleep.
- Aeolus** Ruler of the four winds, including the Boreas, the North wind, and Zephyrus, the West Wind.
- Circe** Sorceress daughter of Helios, exiled to the island of Aea, where she turned men into beasts.
- Scylla** Six headed sea-monster that grabbed sailors from every vessel that approached her.
- Charybdis** Giant sea monster in the shape of a whirlpool, who consumed vessels that sailed too close.
- Harpies** Ugly winged bird-women, who torment people by snatching their food away.
- Sirens** Beautiful Sea Nymphs who lure sailors to their death with alluring song.

- Clashing Rocks** (Symplegades) A pair of Rocks in the Bosphorus that smash ships between them as they pass.
- Talos** Bronze giant who protect Crete by hurling boulders at passing ships.
- Cyclopes** Race of one-eyed giants, sons of Gaia, freed from Tartarus by Zeus.
- Polyphemus** Giant Cyclops, son of Poseidon, who captures Odysseus in his cave.
- Laestrygonians** Race of man-eating giants who ate a great many of Odysseus's men.
- Calypso** Sea nymph who fell in love with Odysseus and kept him captive for many years.