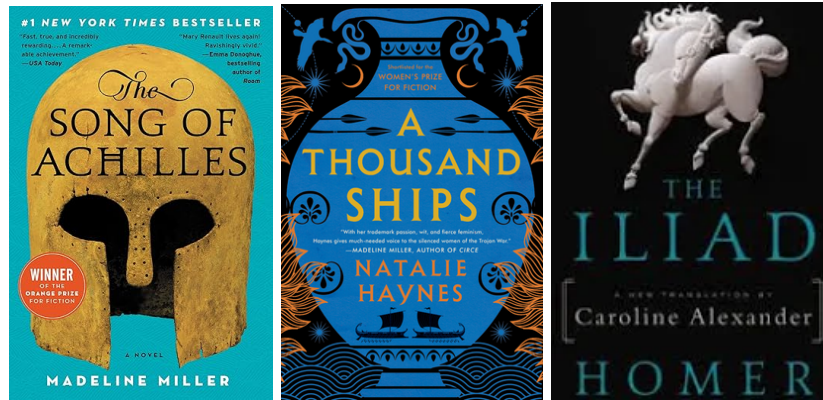




English II Summer Reading

Choose just 1 of the following texts:

- *Song of Achilles* by Madeline Miller,
- *A Thousand Ships* by Natalie Haynes,
- *The Iliad: A New Translation* by Caroline Alexander

Summary of *Song of Achilles* from Goodreads:

Achilles, "the best of all the Greeks," son of the cruel sea goddess Thetis and the legendary king Peleus, is strong, swift, and beautiful, irresistible to all who meet him. Patroclus is an awkward young prince, exiled from his homeland after an act of shocking violence. Brought together by chance, they forge an inseparable bond, despite risking the gods' wrath.

They are trained by the centaur Chiron in the arts of war and medicine, but when word comes that Helen of Sparta has been kidnapped, all the heroes of Greece are called upon to lay siege to Troy in her name. Seduced by the promise of a glorious destiny, Achilles joins their cause, and torn between love and fear for his friend, Patroclus follows. Little do they know that the cruel Fates will test them both as never before and demand a terrible sacrifice.

Summary of *A Thousand Ships* from Goodreads:

This is the women's war, just as much as it is the men's. They have waited long enough for their turn . . . This was never the story of one woman, or two. It was the story of them all.

In the middle of the night, a woman wakes to find her beloved city engulfed in flames. Ten seemingly endless years of conflict between the Greeks and the Trojans are over. Troy has fallen.

From the Trojan women whose fates now lie in the hands of the Greeks, to the Amazon princess who fought Achilles on their behalf, to Penelope awaiting the return of Odysseus, to the three goddesses whose feud started it all, these are the stories of the women whose lives, loves, and rivalries were forever altered by this long and tragic war.

A Thousand Ships puts the women, girls, and goddesses at the center of the Western world's great tale ever told.

Summary of *The Iliad: A New Translation by Caroline Alexander from Goodreads* (ISBN # 978-0062046284)

Composed around 730 B.C., Homer's *Iliad* recounts the events of a few momentous weeks in the ten-year war between the invading Achaeans (Greeks) and the Trojans in their besieged city of Ilion (Troy). Soldier and civilian, victor and vanquished, hero and coward, men, women, young, old—*The Iliad* evokes in poignant, searing detail the fate of every life ravaged by the Trojan War. And, as told by Homer, this ancient tale of a particular Bronze Age conflict becomes a sublime and sweeping evocation of the destruction of war throughout the ages.

Please follow these important Annotation Instructions:

As you read *The Song of Achilles*, *A Thousand Ships*, or *The Iliad*, you should annotate the pages. Thoughtful, careful, and reflective reading takes time. Unplug and disconnect from your digital world and read with a pencil in hand, underlining passages and making notes in the margins. Use sticky tabs or Post-Its to mark pages. Don't worry about underlining or marking the "wrong" passages or pages—this is *your* reading experience.

Please annotate your copy within each chapter with notes in the margins on each of the bolded categories below - **Characterization, Themes, Plot, Diction and Imagery.**

I. Characters: In the front of your book or on a piece of paper please make a simple, preferably handwritten **chart** on which you can track important characters and themes.

***Song of Achilles* characters to include in your chart:**

Patroclus	Briseis	Hector
Achilles	Helen	Pyrrhus
Chiron	Agamemnon	Odysseus
Thetis	Paris	

***A Thousand Ships* characters to include in your chart:**

Calliope	Achilles	Cassandra
The Poet	Agamemnon	Andromache
Penelope	Helen	Priam
Odysseus	Paris	Chryseis
Briseis	Clytemnestra	Creusa
Hera	Theano	Patroclus
Polydorus	Hecabe	Thetis

***The Iliad* characters to include in your chart:**

Achilles	Diomedes	Sarpedon
Agamemnon	Andromache	Calchas
Helen	Priam	Hector
Odysseus	Paris	Chryseis
Briseis	Great Ajax	Hecuba
Patroclus	Little Ajax	Peleus
Nestor	Menelaus	Phoenix
Glaucus	Antenor	Chryses
Zeus	Aeneus	Polydamas

- Who is each character as an **individual** vs. who they are in **society**? How do the characters **evolve** throughout the novel?
- When you encounter a **quote** that is significant to a character's development, mark it with the first letter of their name in the margin AND add the page number to your character chart.

II. Themes

In all 3 texts, watch for themes such as pride, fate, love, and jealousy. Please note others that you spot as well.

III. Plot

Write short phrases to describe what is happening on each page. You can abbreviate the characters' names to their initials to help keep this succinct, for example, "P takes oath."

IV. Diction (Word Choice) and Imagery

Pay special attention to the authors' word choice and the images that those words and phrases evoke. If you cannot figure out the meaning of a word, Google it and note the definition.

Enjoy the book that you have selected!

Note: When you have a "choice book" to read, you are expected to do your own research to determine which text is ultimately right for you as a reader at this moment.