

The Iliad

Homer

How does the opening turn one man's anger into the cause of a whole army's suffering?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	The poem announces anger as its subject
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Book I
START	Sing, O goddess, the anger of Achilles son of Peleus, that brought countless ills upon the Achaeans.
END	great Achilles, first fell out with one another.
PASSAGE ID	sec-il-01

THE MOVE

Read an opening as a causal map

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The opening does not treat Achilles' anger as private emotion. It immediately maps that anger outward into deaths, suffering, and conflict among the Achaeans, making one person's rage the first cause in a much larger chain.

MARK

Circle the word or phrase naming Achilles' anger. Underline every consequence the opening attaches to it. Draw arrows from the anger to the suffering it produces.

NOTICE

- How quickly does the poem move from one man's emotion to collective consequences?
- What kind of responsibility does the opening imply before the story has explained the quarrel?
- Why begin with the effect of anger rather than with Achilles' reasons for feeling it?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does the opening turn one man's anger into the cause of a whole army's suffering? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: How does the opening turn one man's anger into the cause of a whole army's suffering? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	The opening turns Achilles' anger into a causal force by immediately linking it to deaths, suffering, and the fate of the Achaeans. One man's emotion is mapped outward into collective consequence.
EVIDENCE	Use the invocation of Achilles' wrath and at least two consequences attached to it.
WATCH FOR	Do not explain only why Achilles is angry. The question is how the poem frames that anger as a cause before giving the backstory.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

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How does the opening turn one man's anger into the cause of a whole army's suffering?

START ANCHOR	Sing, O goddess, the anger of Achilles son of Peleus, that brought countless ills upon the Achaeans.
END ANCHOR	great Achilles, first fell out with one another.

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. **MARK** - Circle the word or phrase naming Achilles' anger. Underline every consequence the opening attaches to it. Draw arrows from the anger to the suffering it produces.
2. **NOTICE** - How quickly does the poem move from one man's emotion to collective consequences? What kind of responsibility does the opening imply before the story has explained the quarrel? Why begin with the effect of anger rather than with Achilles' reasons for feeling it?
3. **THINK** - Answer provisionally: How does the opening turn one man's anger into the cause of a whole army's suffering?
4. **WRITE** - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.