

The Iliad

Homer

Why does Achilles choose to return to battle immediately after Thetis tells him it will bring his own death closer?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Patroclus changes the meaning of Achilles' fate
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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 XVIII

START Achilles groaned and answered, “Mother, Olympian Jove has indeed vouchsafed me the fulfilment of my prayer END Hold me not back, therefore, in the love you bear me, for you shall not move me.

PASSAGE ID	sec-il-03
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THE MOVE

Track a decision after the cost is made explicit

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Thetis tells Achilles explicitly that killing Hector will bring Achilles’ own death closer. That warning removes ignorance from the decision: he returns to battle knowing the cost and choosing revenge, honor, or loyalty anyway.

MARK

Underline Thetis’ warning about what will happen if Achilles returns to battle. Circle Achilles’ reasons for going anyway. Star the line where he accepts the cost rather than arguing it away.

NOTICE

- What information about his fate does Achilles have before deciding?
- Which value becomes strong enough to outweigh survival?

- How is this decision different from acting bravely without knowing the danger?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why does Achilles choose to return to battle immediately after Thetis tells him it will bring his own death closer? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why does Achilles choose to return to battle immediately after Thetis tells him it will bring his own death closer? 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	Achilles returns because Patroclus's death makes honor, grief, and revenge outweigh self-preservation even after the cost is explicit. The decision is meaningful precisely because he is not ignorant of the consequence.
EVIDENCE	Use Thetis's warning that Hector's death will hasten Achilles' own and Achilles' immediate choice to fight anyway.
WATCH FOR	Do not call the choice brave only because battle is dangerous. The key is that the personal cost is named in advance.
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

The Iliad

Homer

Why does Achilles choose to return to battle immediately after Thetis tells him it will bring his own death closer?

START ANCHOR	Achilles groaned and answered, “Mother, Olympian Jove has indeed vouchsafed me the fulfilment of my prayer
END ANCHOR	Hold me not back, therefore, in the love you bear me, for you shall not move me.

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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 - Underline Thetis’ warning about what will happen if Achilles returns to battle. Circle Achilles’ reasons for going anyway.

Star the line where he accepts the cost rather than arguing it away.

2. NOTICE - What information about his fate does Achilles have before deciding? Which value becomes strong enough to outweigh survival? How is this decision different from acting bravely without knowing the danger?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: Why does Achilles choose to return to battle immediately after Thetis tells him it will bring his own death closer?
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.