

9SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
COMMUNICATIONS AND ARTS DEPARTMENT

EXAMINATION BOOKLET

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Section _____

Instructor's Name Dr.Ousman

Days/Time Your Class Meets Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8-8:40



LITERATURE AS LIFE ENG 231

**2020 – 2021 ACADEMIC YEAR COMMON MID-TERM
EXAM**

Selfish Pride

Being Proud isn't always a good trait, In the Iliad, Achilles was a very proud man, he was so proud that it led up to him losing his best friend's life and his own dignity. Throughout the story Achilles releases a series of emotions, first it was pure anger, stubbornness, sadness, which all turned into vengeance. Achilles' pride fueled him throughout the story, and it changed the way things could've gone. Achilles possessed selfish pride which became destructive to everyone around him. Achilles didn't hate anyone but he let them suffer for his own gain. He was being self-centered because he couldn't get what he wanted. So today we will venture around parts of the story that led to the wrath of Achilles and why it was so hard for him to overcome his Hubris.

Agamemnon was the first to become part of Achilles' wrath in the text it states “. Agamemnon has captured a woman named Chryseis during his siege against the other towns around Troy. Achilles becomes so enraged with Agamemnon's stupidity and failure to realize how he has doomed his armies over Chryseis that Athena has to stop Achilles from killing Agamemnon.” When Agamemnon was compelled by Apollo to give up Chryseis, he demanded Briseis as compensation which was the pride of Achilles. Achilles becomes very disturbed by this because his woman was being taken away from him. Achilles almost challenges Agamemnon to the Briseis but Mount Olympus suggested a better prize was in the store so Achilles instead of fighting him Achilles chooses not to involve himself in the war and that is where his pride took a hit. Also, It's Ironic how women were treated so futile yet had the power to wage a war between two of the most powerful people in Greece. These women played a huge role in the conflict Agamemnon had with Achilles, Agamemnon was jealous that Achilles was able to keep his woman so he took advantage of his power.

As a result of the actions of Agamemnon, which feels like selfishness and disrespect to his greatest soldier, Achilles chooses to sit out of the Trojan war. While their men were dying Achilles just sat back and relaxed. Achilles' pride was so heavy that he would let his own crew mates die at the expense because he could not overcome the betrayal he felt from Agamemnon. Achilles was so angry at what Agamemnon had done that he prayed to his mom Thetis which may I mention happens to be a god. He prays to his mom to get her to persuade Zeus to help the Trojans win the war. He was willing to sacrifice everyone because of his hatred toward Agamemnon. In the text it states "Since Zeus enjoys toying with mortals, he decides to visit Agamemnon in a dream and convince him to attack Troy with everything he has, ensuring Agamemnon victory. This is a sly move and deceptive, because Zeus also visits Hector, the leader of the Trojan armies, and convinces him to do the same thing." Achilles pride traveled so far as to force his own people and home destruction, he waged war on his own city just to hurt Agamemnon. He was willing to let everyone hurt because he was hurting his own selfish pride.

While Achilles chooses to opt-out of war, soldiers come back to back pleading him to join them in the fight. Each time Achilles acts stubbornly and tells them that under no circumstances will he participate in the war. Patroclus Achilles's best friend visits him and tells Achilles that if he's not willing to fight, instead let him fight with the other soldiers in battle to win the war. His own best friend was ready to step up and be a leader because he saw that Achilles position and dignity didn't matter to him anymore because he gave up. Patroclus convinces Achilles to let him do so and Achilles even gives his armor to him. Later after Patroclus takes off, Achilles finds out Patroclus was killed by Hector. Not because Hector was killing at a senseless speed and wanted to kill any Greek insight, Hector thought he killed Achilles since Patroclus had on his armor. At this very moment, Achilles' pride is finally not in the way. He goes into revenge mode and fights in the war. According to the

text, it is said that “When Achilles learns that his best friend has been killed, he finds the motivation to fight. After getting some new armor, Achilles goes on the warpath, literally. He tears the Trojan Army apart. When he finally tracks down Hector, Achilles kills him, dragging his corpse around the city from his chariot.” Achilles didn't think about what he had done when he opted out of the war that he ultimately caused, nor did he ever think him being prideful would be the cause of his best friend's death. Achilles didn't let go of his pride until it was too late.

Achilles was the strongest warrior and hero in the Greek army but that still didn't stop him from acting like a 12 year old when his feelings were hurt. Achilles left all his responsibility and his dignity when his pride took a hit by Agamemnon. He was the strong soldier everyone knew but he was also the product of a person who experienced betrayal and selfishness. Agamemnon made horrible decisions as a king and even stole his woman. Even though these things were bad Achilles has a duty to always protect his people no matter what but in this case he didn't and it took the death of someone close to him for him to finally let go of that pride. Learn this lesson from Achilles himself, don't be so prideful that you lose yourself and people around you.