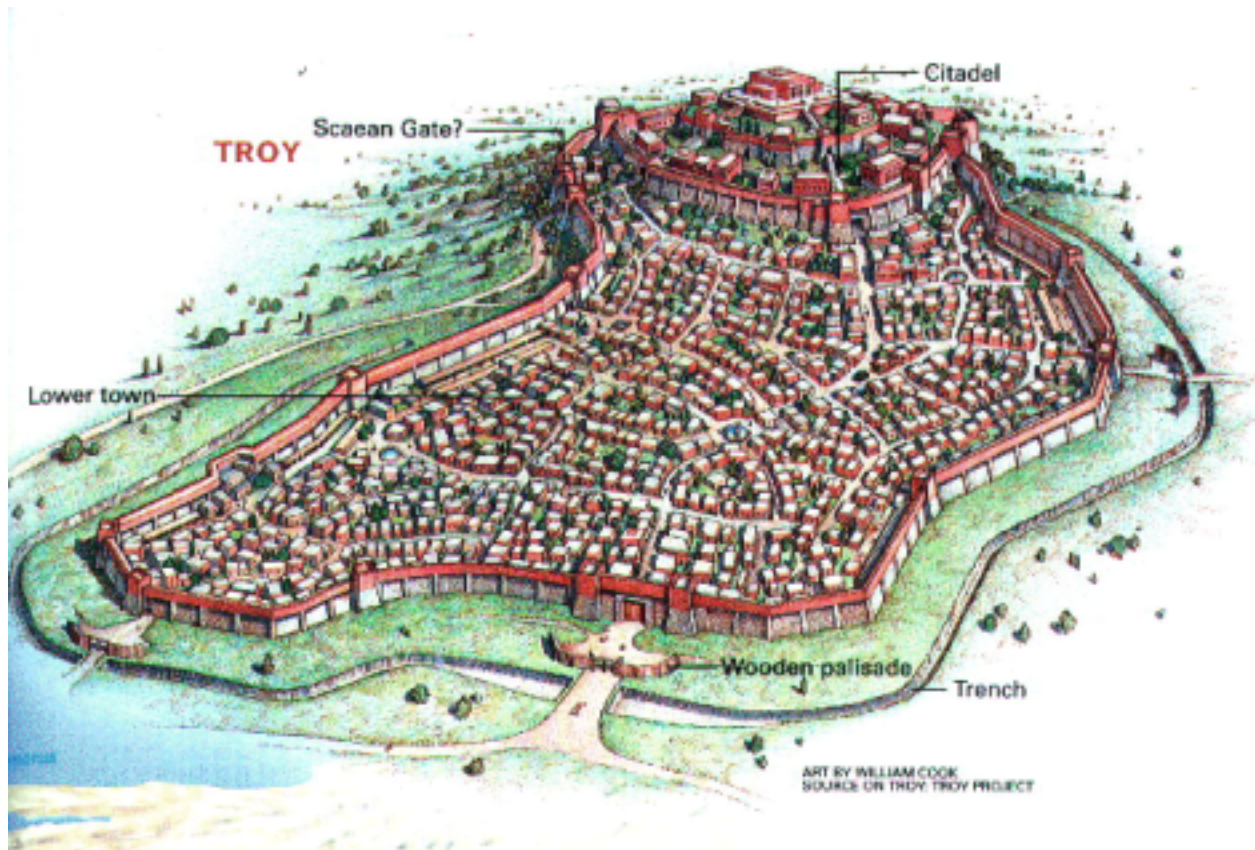


ELA 9 Honors Summer Reading

**Please note** - These assignments are due on September 29th and October 2nd for A and B week students

### *Troy* by Adele Geras



### **Overview**

The siege of Troy has lasted almost ten years. Inside the walled city, food is scarce and death is common. From the heights of Mount Olympus, the Gods keep watch. But Aphrodite, Goddess of Love, is bored with the endless, dreary war. Aided by Eros's bow, the goddess sends two sisters down a bloody path to an awful truth: In the fury of war, love strikes the deadliest blows.

Heralded by fans and critics alike, Adèle Geras breathes personality, heartbreak, and humor into this classic story.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Major Characters

#### Trojans

**Xanthe and Marpessa:** teenage sisters whose lives become intertwined with the royal family of Troy during the Trojan War

**Prince Paris:** son of King Priam, steals Helen from her husband, King Menelaus of Sparta

**Helen:** Wife of Menelaus who sails to Troy after falling in love with Paris

**Prince Hector:** eldest son of King Priam

**Andromache:** Hector's wife

**Astyanax:** Hector and Andromache's infant son

**King Priam:** King of Troy

**Queen Hecuba:** wife of Priam

**Cassandra:** Daughter of Priam and Hecuba; has the gift of prophecy although no one ever believes her

**Iason:** Young man who cares for Hector's horses

**Alastor:** Young soldier who is wounded in battle

#### Greeks

**King Menelaus:** King of Sparta who raises an army of 10,000 ships to sail to Troy to fight to get his wife, Helen, back from Trojan Prince Paris

**Achilles:** demi-god; fiercest Greek warrior

**Odysseus:** King of Ithaca who fights in the Trojan War for King Menelaus

#### Gods/Goddesses

**Zeus:** ruler of the gods

**Ares:** god of war

**Eros:** god of love and sex

**Aphrodite:** goddess of love and beauty

**Poseidon:** god of the sea

**Athena:** goddess of wisdom and war

**Hermes:** messenger of the gods

**Hephaestus:** god of fire and blacksmiths

**Hades:** god of the dead and king of the underworld

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**Directions:** Respond to the questions in the left-hand column with details from the story.

**Reading Questions: pages 1-41**

Question	Details from <i>Troy</i>
Where is Xanthe working when the book begins? What is her job?	
What is Xanthe's opinion of Boros?	
What form does Zeus take over the battlefield?	
Describe Ares as he appears to Alastor on the battlefield.	
Describe Eros as he appears to Xanthe in the Blood Room.	
Where does Marpessa work?	
What does Aphrodite promise Paris in the story <i>The Judgment of Paris</i> ?	

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How did Odysseus treat the three gossips Halie, Danae, and Theano when he visited before the war?	
What trick did Odysseus try to use to avoid going to the war? Why didn't it work?	
What is The Singer's job?	
Why can't Iason fight alongside the other men on The Plain?	
What job did Lord Hector give Iason instead?	
When they were little, Iason and Xanthe played together. They loved to re-enact three famous stories. Look up a summary of each of the following. Then in a few sentences, tell what happens in the story:	

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<i>Perseus and Andromeda</i>	
<i>Theseus and Ariadne</i>	
<i>Orpheus and Eurydice</i>	

**Reading Questions: pages 42-79**

Question	Details from <i>Troy</i>
Who is Andromache married to?	

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What does Boros ask Andromache, and what is her response?	
What is Andromache's most secret fear?	
Describe Paris and his effect on women.	
Who is Hector eager to meet on The Plain?	
Fill in the blanks from this statement from pg. 56:	"Every good Trojan was supposed to beg the gods to come down from Olympus and destroy_____, _____, _____, and above all, _____."

For what reason was Xanthe chosen as Astyanax's caretaker?	
Where does Hector go the night before the battle, and why?	

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Why does Andromache say she can't watch Hector ride out into battle?	
According to Alastor, even though women love Achilles, who does Achilles' heart belong to?	
Why is the battle between Achilles and Hector so important to the Trojans?	

**Reading Questions: pages 80-133**

Why does the gossip Halie also blame Menelaus for what happened between Paris and Helen?	
Explain what happened to Iphigenia.	

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According to Poseidon, what trick is Achilles playing on Hector? Who dies on the battlefield in place of Achilles?	
Who is the “wizened old man” watching the battle on the side of Polyxena and The Singer?	
How does Aphrodite plan to create a “bit of a competition” between Xanthe and Marpessa?	
What is Hephaestus doing in the blacksmith shop when Iason sees him late one night?	
After killing Hector, how does Achilles disrespect his dying wish?	
In what way(s) does the goddess Athena intervene in the battle between Achilles and Hector? Who does she help?	

**Reading Questions: pages 134-186**

What does Helen confess to Xanthe about her love for Paris? (Is it getting stronger or weaker?)	
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For whom has Marpessa fallen? How do you know?	
Who is the “woman in blue” that appears to Andromache, and what is her message?	
Fill in the blank: As an acclaimed “Singer,” Polyxena’s grandfather tells the young girls that he needs to be up to date with all the _____.	
What will Priam give to Achilles in exchange for Hector’s body?	
Who are the two people who will accompany Priam across The Plain to meet Achilles?	
Who drives King Priam’s wagon?	
What message does Iason ask Polyxena to deliver to Xanthe for him? Why is this a conflict for Polyxena?	
Why is Xanthe so angry at Andromache?	

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Who is Phrontis?	
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**Reading Questions: pages 187-end**

Who kills Achilles, and how?	
For Marpessa and Alastor, what is the purpose of the ruins?	
When Hermes visits the Gossips, he tells the story of a Greek soldier named _____, who was on the way to Troy when he accidentally shot a _____ instead of a deer. As a result, he suffered a wound on his foot that became poisoned and infected, and he was left on the island by himself. Now, he is needed, because he has the bow of the great _____, which is the only weapon that can take down the Trojan Prince, Paris.	
Who is Corynthus, and what happens to him?	

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Why doesn't Alastor tell Xanthe the name of the girl who "sets him on fire"?	
Why won't Oenone help Paris?	
What thought causes "hope, like a small bird" to flutter into Marpessa's heart?	
Who will Helen marry now that Paris is dead?	

What scary vision does Cassandra see when Astyanax is playing with his toy horse?	
What was Alastor's father's dying wish?	
According to the Gossips, what has gone missing from the temples of Pallas Athena?	

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For what does Marpessa pay Mother Poison three gold coins?	
What happens to Laocoon and his three sons, and who is responsible?	
What happens to Astyanax? Who is responsible?	
How does Alastor escape from Troy?	
What two characters decide to stay behind together and help bury the dead and rebuild Troy?	
<p>Which goddess exclaims at the end of the book, "I didn't really mean for so much destruction"?</p> <p>Think back to the beginning. How is this goddess responsible for much of the suffering that has happened?</p>	

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**After Reading:** Respond to the following After Reading Questions in the boxes below.

Did you like this book? Why or why not?

What questions do you still have after finishing this book?