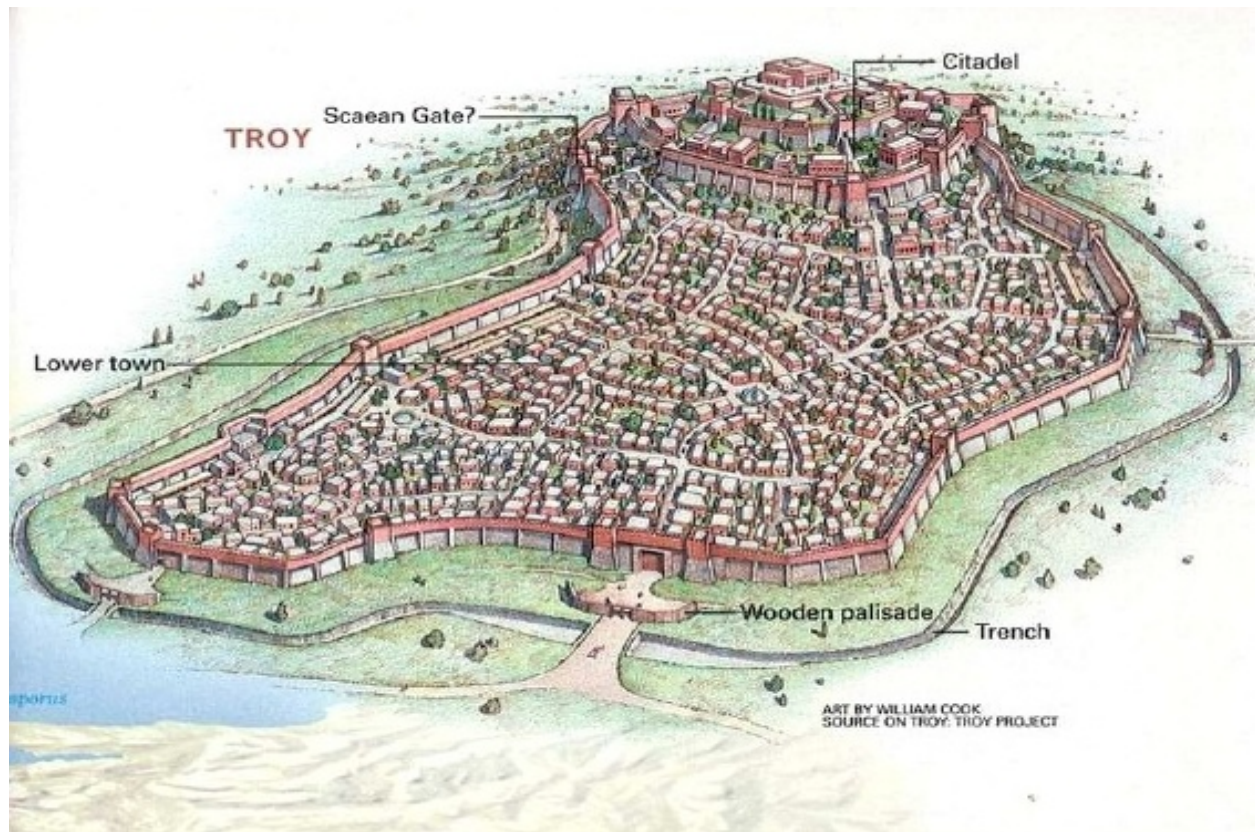


Assignment: For ELA 9 Honors, read the book “Troy” by Adele Geras. As you read, take notes on characters and plot events. There will be a test on the book during your first academic cycle.



Troy by Adele Geras

Troy (2000), as might be expected from the title, follows the city of Troy during the Trojan War. Specifically, *Troy* is a YA novel by well-known historical fiction author **Adèle Geras** about the final year of the war, covering roughly the same time period as the *Iliad*. The story focuses on the experiences of two sisters, Xanthe and Marpessa. Whilst dealing with hunger from the city being starved, trauma from the bloody battle beyond the walls and the despair of a city slowly realising it can't win, the sisters also face chaos brought by the gods in their personal lives. The goddess Aphrodite becomes bored with the war and causes both Xanthe and Marpessa to fall in love with wealthy Trojan soldier Alastor. Alastor, in turn, falls in lust but not love with Marpessa.

Other major characters in *Troy* include Xanthe's friends Iason the stable boy and Polyxena the granddaughter of a famous bard, Andromache whom Xanthe serves, Helen whom Marpessa serves, the infant Astyanax and the three elderly 'gossips' Theano, Danae and Halie who serve the palace. To further the theme of romantic complications, Iason is in love with Xanthe and Polyxena is in love with Iason. Andromache fears that Hector secretly desires Helen, and Marpessa fears Paris may desire her.