

AJAX ESSAYS

- 1) There are several references, direct or indirect, to the Iliad in this play. Pick one, and discuss it.
(E.g: the exchange of gifts between Hector & Ajax; the account by Teucer of Ajax's heroic deeds; The Tecmessa-Ajax scene; or the preparations for burial at the end.)
- 2) What are Odysseus' feelings for Ajax and how do they affect the outcome? OR: is Odysseus a better man than Ajax?
- 3) What does this play tell us about father-son relationships in the heroic world?
- 4) Did Ajax mean to deceive his hearers in the 'deceit speech'? Why?
- 5) What do we learn of the relationship between Ajax & Tecmessa?

PHILOCTETES ESSAYS

- 1) Socrates was accused of 'corrupting the young' at his trial in 399. How ^{far} does Odysseus succeed in corrupting Neoptolemus, and why did this seem relevant to the audience?
- 2) Aristotle says tragedy makes you feel pity and fear. How would 'Philoctetes' do this?
- 3) The setting of this play was a very unusual one. Why does Sophocles make it as it is?
- 4) We seem to see Neoptolemus grow up in this play. Show how this happens.
- 5) In Greek tragedy, a single object sometimes has great significance. Show how the Bow is used in this way.