

THE ILLIAD: SIMPLIFIED PLOT

A ACHILLES STORY

B ZEUS'S PLAN

Book

1 QUARREL AND WITHDRAWAL OF ACHILLES → ZEUS DECIDES TO PUNISH GREEKS

DIGRESSION

- 2 Battle prepared; catalogue of armies
- 3 Duel of Menelaus and Paris
- 4 Truce broken
- 5 Fighting, esp. by Diomedes and gods
- 6 (Hector meets women and Paris in Troy)
- 7 Greeks build wall; duel of Hector & Ajax

8  
9 ENTREATY TO ACHILLES

ZEUS MAKES GREEKS START LOSING

10 (DIGRESSION: night fighting and spying) ↓

- 11 Key Greeks are wounded
- 12 Trojans scale wall
- 13 (Setback: Greeks win a few;
- 14 Zeus is sent to sleep)
- 15 Trojans reach ships

16 PATROCLUS ENTERS & IS KILLED

17 Battle for Patroclus's body

18 ACHILLES REJOINS (+ new armour)

19 Gets his girl back, + gifts

20 Kills many Trojans, and fights Aeneas

21 Fights River Xanthus

22 ACHILLES KILLS HECTOR

23 Funeral games for Patroclus

24 Hector's body returned