

0. THE PLOT THICKENS - Story Preface

1. ACHILLES

2. HELEN AND PARIS

3. THE TROJAN WAR

**4. THE PLOT THICKENS**

5. DEATH OF HECTOR

6. DEATH OF ACHILLES

7. THE WOODEN HORSE

8. RUINS OF TROY AND MYCENAE



In this image from a red-figure Athenian vase, created around 500 BC, we see Achilles bandaging his close friend and relative, Patroclus, who had been wounded (by an arrow) in battle. The original artifact, made by Sosias, is now maintained by the Altes Museum in Berlin. Scholars are unsure of the illustrator. It could be Sosias Painter, the Kleophrades Painter or Euthymides. Image online via Wikimedia Commons. Click on it for a better view.

Compelled by an oracle to give up HIS war prize (a woman named Chryseis), Agamemnon - as King - had the power to take Briseis from Achilles. He did precisely that. Reacting badly to this interference in his life, a sulking Achilles refused to fight against the Trojans.

Knowing the Greeks could not win without the help of their greatest warrior, Agamemnon tried to convince Achilles to set aside their personal differences. Achilles refused, although he reluctantly allowed Patroclus (wearing the armor of his cousin) to fight in his place.

Patroclus, however, was inexperienced and unable to defend himself against Hector, leader of the Trojan forces. The following day—initially believing that the man wearing Achilles' armor was, indeed, Achilles—Hector killed Patroclus and kept the armor for himself.

Achilles, both enraged and grief-stricken over the loss of his friend, agreed to actively engage the Trojans—especially Hector. Before that encounter took place, however, Agamemnon returned Briseis, untouched and unharmed, to Achilles.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-PLOT-THICKENS-Troy>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-PLOT-THICKENS-Troy>

Media Stream



Briseis to Agamemnon - Fresco by Tiepolo

Title of Work: *Eurybates and Talthybios Lead Briseis to Agamemnon.*

Maintained at Villa Valmarana, Venice. Online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Briseis-to-Agamemnon-Fresco-by-Tiepolo>



### Patroclus - Using the Shield of Achilles

Image online via the Beazley Archive at Oxford University.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Patroclus-Using-the-Shield-of-Achilles>



### Patroclus - Death

Image online, courtesy the University of Arkansas [website](#).

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Patroclus-Death>



### Patroclus - Death Reaction by Achilles

Image and quoted information, from the [National Galleries of Scotland](#).

View this asset at:

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