**GUIDED READING QUESTIONS**

**The Iliad, Book XVI:**

1. How appropriate is the simile on the first page of book 16 which compares Patroclus to a little girl weeping for mother? What is Achilles' point in making it? What effect does it have on the audience of the poem?
2. What is Achilles' reaction to Patroclus' speech that includes the provocative exclamation "Cursed in your own courage!" (34-35)? How does Achilles justify sending Patroclus out to fight in his place?
3. What are Achilles' special instructions to Patroclus (92)? What does he say about his sense of honor? What does the end of his speech say about the strength of his friendship with Patroclus? (115-119)
4. In Patroclus' arming scene, Homer specifically tells us that Patroclus does not take Achilles' spear. Why? What are the names of Achilles’ horses? What is special about them?
5. What religious ceremony does Achilles perform before sending out his troops to fight? What special vessel does he use for it? How effective is it? Usually prayers offer something to gods. How does this prayer fit that pattern?
6. How does Patroclus make a political statement against Agamemnon out of the Myrmidons' re-entry into battle? (316-322) How does the sight of Patroclus in battle affect the Trojans?
7. Look at Zeus' reaction to his son Sarpedon's death (544-548). What does this say about the relation between “fate” and the gods?
8. Following Sarpedon's death, his dejected and wounded comrade Glaucus prays to Apollo. What is Apollo's reaction?
9. Why is there such a terrible fight over Sarpedon's body? (642-665)
10. How does Zeus make sure that Sarpedon's body is treated properly (777-788)?
11. What responsibility does Patroclus have for his own death? To what extent is Apollo responsible? To what extend it Hector responsible? To what extent is Achilles responsible? To what extent is Zeus responsible? Fate?
12. Which god is Hector's patron in this book? What does this god have to do with prophecy? What is ironic about Patroclus' prophecy to Hector (985-1000), that Hector rejects?