

THE TEMPORAL STRUCTURE OF THE *ILLIAD*

Prologue (1.1–12a): the poet invokes his Muse and announces his theme

I. EXPOSITION (21 DAYS)

1. *Day 1* (1.12b–52): Chryses
2. *Days 2–9* (1.53): plague in Greek camp
3. *Day 10* (1.54–476): quarrel between Agamemnon and Achilles, embassy to Chryse
4. *Day 11* (1.477–492): return of embassy, wrath of Achilles
5. *Days 12–20* (1.493): gods visit the Ethiopians
6. *Day 21 and following night* (1.493–2.47): Thetis' plea to Zeus, Agamemnon's dream

II. MAIN NARRATIVE (6 DAYS)

7. *Day 22* (2.48–7.380): *First Day of Fighting*
 - Agamemnon tempts the army
 - catalogues (review of troops)
 - first truce: duel of Menelaus and Paris is to decide outcome of war
 - Helen and Priam look down on Greek army from walls of Troy
 - Pandarus breaks truce
 - great deeds of Diomedes
 - Hector in Troy
 - duel between Hector and Ajax
8. *Day 23* (7.381–432): second truce, burials of the dead
9. *Day 24* (7.433–482): Greeks build walls around their camp
10. *Day 25 and following night* (8.1–10.579): *Second Day of Fighting*
 - Greeks forced to retreat
 - Trojans camp on the plain before Troy
 - Greek embassy to Achilles
 - Dolon episode

11. *Day 26 and following night* (11.1–18.617): *Third Day of Fighting*

- great deeds of Agamemnon
- great deeds of Hector
- Greek leaders wounded
- Achilles sends Patroclus to Nestor
- fighting at the walls of the Greek camp
- Trojans invade Greek camp
- fighting by the Greek ships
- Hera seduces Zeus
- great deeds of Patroclus, his death in a duel with Hector
- Achilles' new armor, description of his shield

12. *Day 27 and following night* (19.1–23.110a): *Fourth Day of Fighting*

- settlement of quarrel between Agamemnon and Achilles
- great deeds of Achilles
- duel of Achilles and Hector, Hector's death

III. CONCLUSION (24 DAYS)

13. *Day 28* (23.110b–257a): funeral of Patroclus
14. *Day 29 and following night* (23.257b–24.21): games in honor of Patroclus
15. *Days 30–40* (24.22–30): Achilles abuses Hector's body
16. *Day 41 and following night* (24.31–694): Priam visits Achilles and obtains release of Hector's body
17. *Day 42* (24.695–781): Hector brought back to Troy
18. *Days 43–50* (24.782–784): third truce
19. *Day 51* (24.785–804): funeral of Hector