

WHO'S WHO

THE ACHAEANS



Helen

Helen (*he-len*) left her husband, Menelaus king of Lakedaemon, to run off with Paris, prince of Troy. She hasn't had to make many important decisions in her life since most of them have been made by powerful men around her. But she's beginning to discover that getting what's important to her through her own efforts can be immensely satisfying.



Agamemnon

Agamemnon (*a-ga-mem-non*) is the king of Mycenae and High King of the Achaeans. He loves power and control, though he prefers to use politically acceptable methods to obtain these ends. When Paris of Troy took his sister-in-law, Helen, Agamemnon knew he had the perfect excuse to attack the wealthy city of Troy. To be certain of victory, he raised an immense army of Achaeans which so far has failed to reach Troy.



Menelaus

Menelaus (*me-ne-lay-us*) is the king of Lakedaemon. He's easily dominated by his elder brother, Agamemnon, but when Paris looted Menelaus's palace and took his wife, Helen, away, Menelaus insisted that Agamemnon retaliate. All he wants now is to crush the Trojans and recover Helen.



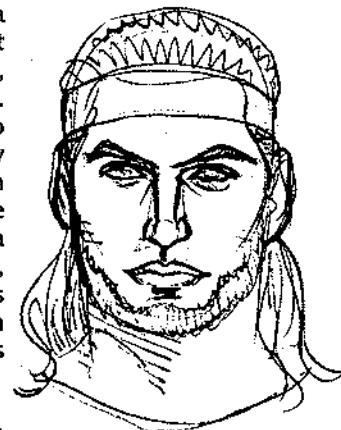
Odysseus

Odysseus (*o-dis-yoos*) is the king of Ithaka. He was initially reluctant to leave his wife and newborn son to join the Achaean army. But he's come to accept his part in the war, and he's become a close advisor of Agamemnon due to his nimble mind.



Achilles

Achilles (*a-kil-eez*) is a prince of Phthia where he spent his early years. But when his mother, Thetis, left his father, Peleus, Achilles went to live on Mt. Pelion with the kentauroi, Cheiron, who taught him hunting, healing, and many other arts. Thetis, to shield her son from the war, hid Achilles among the princesses of Skyros. Achilles fathered a son by the eldest princess, Deidamia, before Odysseus penetrated Achilles's disguise. Achilles joined the Achaean army where he was reunited with his childhood friend, Patroklos.



Ajax

Ajax (*ay-jax*) is a prince of Salamis, son of King Telamon and Periboea.