

example, the musical duel between the frogs and Dionysus is done to the rhythm and rhyme of *Highway to Hell* by AC/DC with the frogs throughout singing 'he's on a causeway to hell!' I found this to be a refreshing modern take which I agree with the translator is fully in the spirit of Aristophanes. I must admit that, being in my mid-30s, a few of the artists used were before my time and required a quick music search for reference; however, I did find that this approach helped to breathe greater life into the text and went a little way to capturing what it might have been like for the ancient audience. Again, with my teaching hat on I have used this as a way of helping my own students capture the mood of the play and asked them to devise their own songs as a way of understanding the play.

While there is a requirement for students to use the prescribed set text translations, I certainly feel that there are elements of this edition that would make it a worthwhile purchase for a department. Additionally, for those not teaching the play who would like to start their exploration into Greek comedy, or for those more seasoned readers looking for an interesting take on the work of Aristophanes, this is a worthwhile read.

doi: 10.1017/S2058631022000447

Roman Britain Puzzles

Morgan (J.). Pp. x+89, ills. Independently published, 2021. Paper, £5.99. ISBN: 9798613354061

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Have you been studying Roman Britain with your classes? Are you looking for something for the end of term? Or for extension? Then this is the book for you! Julian Morgan's book of *Roman Britain Puzzles* has something for everyone, from word searches (quite hard in some cases) to various forms of sudoku, code breaking, anagrams, quizzes on Roman roads in Britain (some research required here maybe), crosswords and more. The variety is astonishing and there is something for all levels of knowledge, ability and even interest; and don't worry –

the answers are in the back, but don't tell the students! This book might look slim, but it is packed with information and should interest even the most reluctant student as it deals not only with the Romans but with what you can see around you in Britain today. There are some quizzes on inscriptions that might require a bit of help for those without Latin, but there is an epigraphy appendix provided at the back of the book as well. Epigraphy got me interested in studying Latin many, many years ago and – who knows? – it might just grab some of our modern students. A few of the crosswords are quite hard; good for half-term homework perhaps or for extending keen

students, but overall, what comes across is the deep interest and knowledge shown by the author of this book and at £5.99 it is well worth the money for any school.

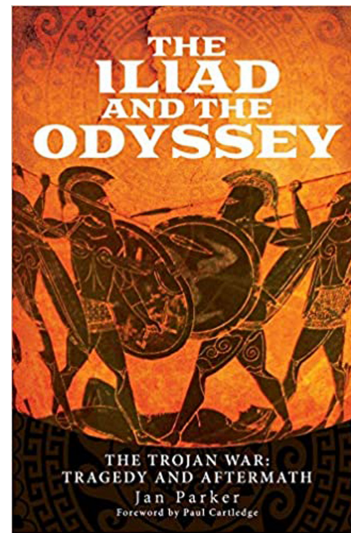
doi: 10.1017/S2058631022000502

The Iliad and the Odyssey: The Trojan War: Tragedy and Aftermath

Parker (J.) pp. 272. Pen and Sword Military, 2021. £25.00. ISBN: 978-1526779939

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Homer's surviving epics about the Trojan War and its aftermath, the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, are canonical works in European literature. Jan Parker's new book gives a comprehensive overview of the plots with discussion of the heroic values within them, illustrated with relevant and illuminating pictures of the Trojan War taken from pottery. She uses her own translations throughout the book to support her range of points.

In her introduction to the *Iliad*, she summarises the archaeological evidence for the history behind the

Trojan war myth, before launching her overall argument that the poet both celebrates and problematises the value of *kleos* (glorious reputation). Emphasising the performative context of individual rhapsodes adding their own interpretations, she uses the repeated authorial interjections of 'fool' to argue that the characters' inability to understand *moira* (fate) renders them tragic victims of it, most notably Hector.

For each book of the *Iliad*, Parker provides a summary with her overall interpretation, which is frequently compelling. Her interpretation of book 5 as 'cinematic' in Diomedes' *aristeia* (spectacular killing spree) supports her view of the poem as ambivalent about war, balanced as it is by her summary of book 6 and her interpretation of it as civilian-focused. Developing this argument, she highlights similes in book 11, such as the comparison of Ajax to a donkey, as exemplars of Homer's dual perspective on peace and war. Most notably, the author lays bare the extent of Achilles' guilt for the irresponsibility of Patroklos' death, surely reminiscent of Aeneas' feelings at Pallas' death in Virgil's *Aeneid*, but leaves it to the reader to make this comparison. Parker herself does make comparisons but leaves room for readers to reach their